18M troop to schools today amid usual woes

STORY ON PAGE A2

Comelec expects canvass end today

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

FOUR DAYS past its self-imposed deadline, the Commission on Elections tries to wrap up today the canvassing of the two remaining certificates of canvass for the Senate race.

Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo on Friday hinted that there would be a full proclamation

COMELEC/ A21

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

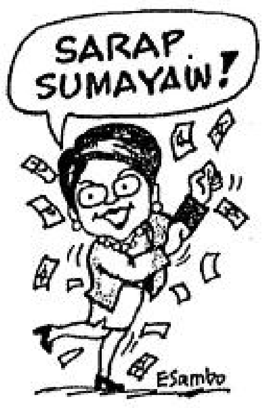
MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2001 ★★ 82 PAGES 8 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 176 ₱15

Tessie richest senator

BY C. AVENDAÑO

DESPITE having returned a P1-million gift (*balato*) from her close friend, deposed

TESSIE/ A4



FOR five Palawan hostages (left photo)—Raul Recio and his wife Divine, Teresa Guanzon, Letty Jao and Janice Go—who escaped on Saturday night, it was a tearful reunion with their relatives at the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City. They were welcomed by President Macapagal-Arroyo and other top government officials.

The bandits fled through a hole in the wall (right photo).

VAL HANDUMON/DENNIS SABANGAN

Abus escape cordon

ITS walls pockmarked by bullets, the St. Peter's church in Lamitan, Basilan, which the Abu Sayyaf seized Saturday, stands as witness to the fierce fighting between the hostage takers and military troopers.

DENNIS SABANGAN

Two Palawan hostages slain; five escape

BY JULIE ALIPALA-INOT,
JONATHAN F. MA
PDI Mindanao Bureau
AND CARLITO PABLO

USING children as human shields against heavy gunfire, Abu Sayyaf kidnappers broke through a military cordon around a hospital and church compound in a Basilan town after midnight Saturday and melted into the surrounding jungle with at least 14 hostages, the military said.

Five Filipinos from among 20 people kidnapped eight days ago from the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan escaped during the overnight chaos, but two others were reportedly killed. ***(See story on this page.)***

Four other captives had escaped during the fighting on Saturday.

After a sleepless night marked by sporadic gunfire, traumatized residents of Lamitan town emerged yesterday to a grisly spectacle.

The bodies of an altar boy and two soldiers lay outside the St. Peter's church in the town center.

Nearby, wisps of smoke twisted out of four gutted houses which residents said the bandits had burned during their escape to divert military attention.

In another house, an elderly man died after his blood pressure rose precipitously during the rebel attack.

In another, a pregnant woman lost her baby in a sudden miscarriage.

ABU SAYYAF/ A21

Captive's beheading shocks pa

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The grief-stricken father found it impossible to stomach the news of his youngest son's terrible fate.

"It would have been easier to accept it if he died of sickness or a natural death, or even in an accident—but not that way," said Francesco Bayona after learning yesterday of the reported beheading of his son Armando by Abu Sayyaf kidnappers.

Armando, 22, was the Dos Palmas Resort security guard whose headless body was discovered by government troops in Basilan yesterday. ***(See story on this page.)***

He was one of 20 people abducted by the Abu Sayyaf bandits

CAPTIVE'S/ A20

'I saw fear in Americans' faces'

"I SAW fear in their faces," a priest, who escaped during the chaotic flight of the Abu Sayyaf from a hospital in Lamitan, Basilan, said of three Americans still in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Fr. Rene Enriquez said the bandits had kept him in a room with Americans Guillermo Sobero and missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham.

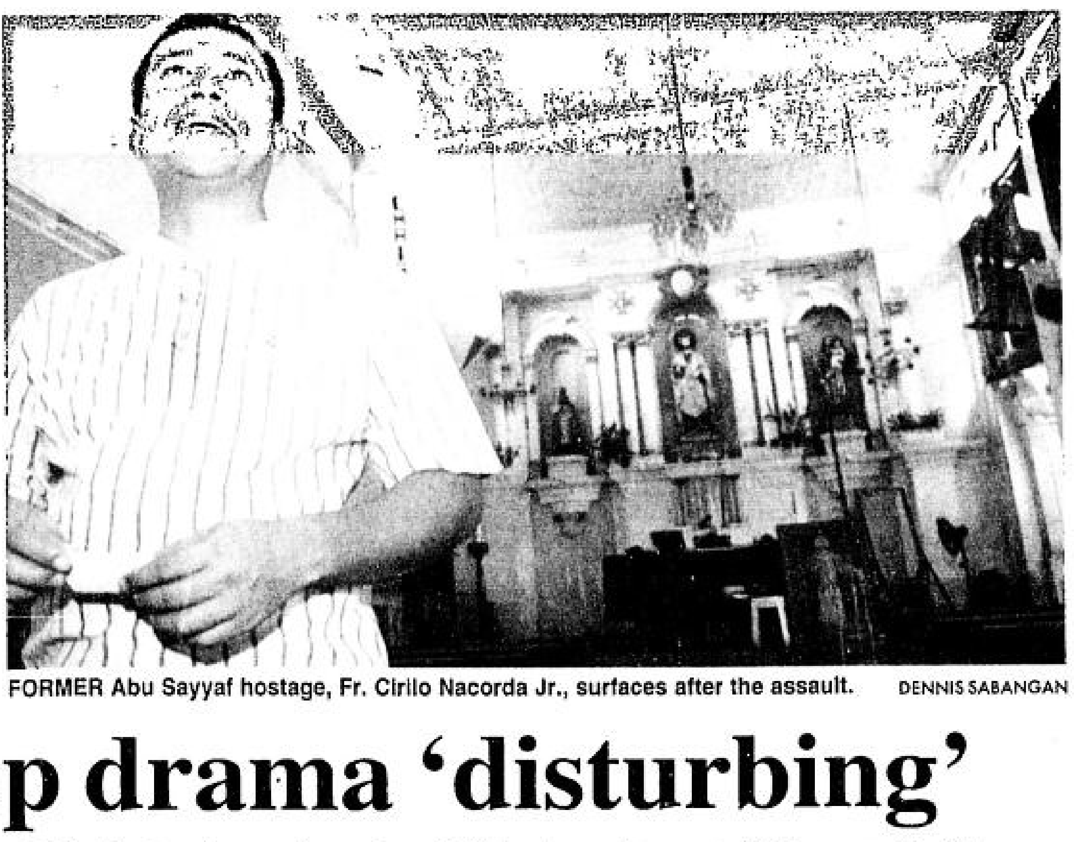
Enriquez, 39, recalled that Gracia Burnham approached him and said: "Are you a priest? Can you pray for us so we will be saved?"

"I will pray," the priest answered. "Her voice was shaking," he said.

The priest said the Burnhams were near tears and Sobero was hugging another hostage. Enriquez said he gave Sobero a soft drink.

Another priest was found alive yesterday.

I SAW/ A20



FORMER Abu Sayyaf hostage, Fr. Cirilo Nacorda Jr., surfaces after the assault. DENNIS SABANGAN

Gov't now better organized to cope with crisis

BY AMANDO DORONILA

ANALYSIS

AS I write, nine of the 20 hostages seized by the Abu Sayyaf from the Dos Palmas Arreceffi Island Resort in Palawan a week ago have been rescued. It is pointless to quibble over whether they escaped or were rescued. As Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, military spokesperson, has pointed out, military pressure applied on the bandits caused them to lose control of custody of the hostages.

Although I have some details of the rescue and of the fighting when Abu Sayyaf reinforcements seized the St. Peter's Church and the Dr. Jose Maria Torres Hospital in Lamitan town in Basilan on Saturday, I am not free to disclose these because of the information blackout on tactical military operations.

The proper time for disclosures will come. What's important to me, as well as to most of us, including the families of the hostages, is that the action taken by the Macapagal administration has produced results within a week of the abduction.

Government reports have confirmed that five soldiers and militiamen have been killed and 36 others wounded in the fighting. It is not even clear if some of the hostages have been killed or wounded.

There's a lot of difference in the handling by the Estrada administration of the Sipadan hos-

GOV'T/ A6

US says RP kidnap drama 'disturbing'

THE UNITED States repeated its concern Sunday over the abduction of three of its citizens by the Abu Sayyaf and called for close cooperation among nations to combat such attacks.

"Certainly any country, the Philippines or the United States, in a situation like this, find this development very disturbing and frightening," US Sen. Richard Lugar told a news conference in Manila.

Lugar said President Macapagal-Arroyo "knows our anxiety, of our Americans who are still at risk."

He was speaking as the Abu Sayyaf rebels daringly pierced through a military cordon Sunday and fled with three Americans and a number of Filipino hostages into the jungle from Lamitan town in Basilan.

US missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham—longtime Philippine residents who are originally from Kansas—and Californian Guillermo Sobero were among 20 people seized from a tourist resort off Palawan on May 27.

The President has launched a military assault to free the hostages and ruled out any negotiations with the guerrillas for ransom.

The military had cornered the Abu Sayyaf rebels on Sunday when they

US/ A20

GANUN PA RIN ANG PROBLEMA!

Second FRONT PAGE

18M troop to schools today

By Blanche S. Rivera

EIGHTEEN million pupils troop to public and private schools throughout the country today, with the education department all but swamped as usual by the perennial shortages and problems plaguing the public school system.

Education Secretary Raul Roco admitted the department has not been able to immediately address the backlog in teachers, classrooms, textbooks and desks.

"(Resolving) that is not instant; we can't act on the shortages immediately because it may need time," Roco said. "In fact, we're looking for a budget," he said.

The DECS also announced that some schools in Mindanao and Caloocan would be starting classes later than June 4 because of the failure in elections in those places and the damage done to school buildings in the south by recent wars.

Roco said learning centers in areas like Lanao del Norte, Maguindanao and Cotabato would not be able to open simultaneously with Metro Manila schools because school buildings were either still being used for elections or repaired.

Other Mindanao areas affected by the continuing hostilities between government and rebel troops would definitely not be able to follow the school opening schedule set by the DECS.

The DECS projected an increase of 2.5 million Grade 1 pupils and 1.4 million high school freshmen in public schools this year.

The increase of 151,000 is twice that recorded last year.

The department attributed the hike to the lowering of the age for entry.

Earlier reports, however, indicated that the rising cost of tuition in private schools would cause a rise in the transfer rate from private to public schools.

Some DECS regional directors have reported that among the biggest problems in public school education is the use of different kinds of reference books, which has caused considerable confusion among students.

The DECS has delivered six million textbooks to public schools as of this month and will deliver two million more by October, but the shortage in instructional materials remains at 36 million.

Roco said the old materials would be used while waiting for the arrival of the new purchases.

But he stressed that one class should use only one type of book, and not differing reference materials, as some very poor public schools are prone to do in the provinces.

The DECS chief also said the department would be needing 38,054 public school teachers for this school year, but the Department of Budget and Management had approved items for only about 7,000.

"The problem is that we really lack money, and I cannot hire them unless we have money," Roco said, adding that most regions, especially Mindanao, had reported a shortage of teachers.

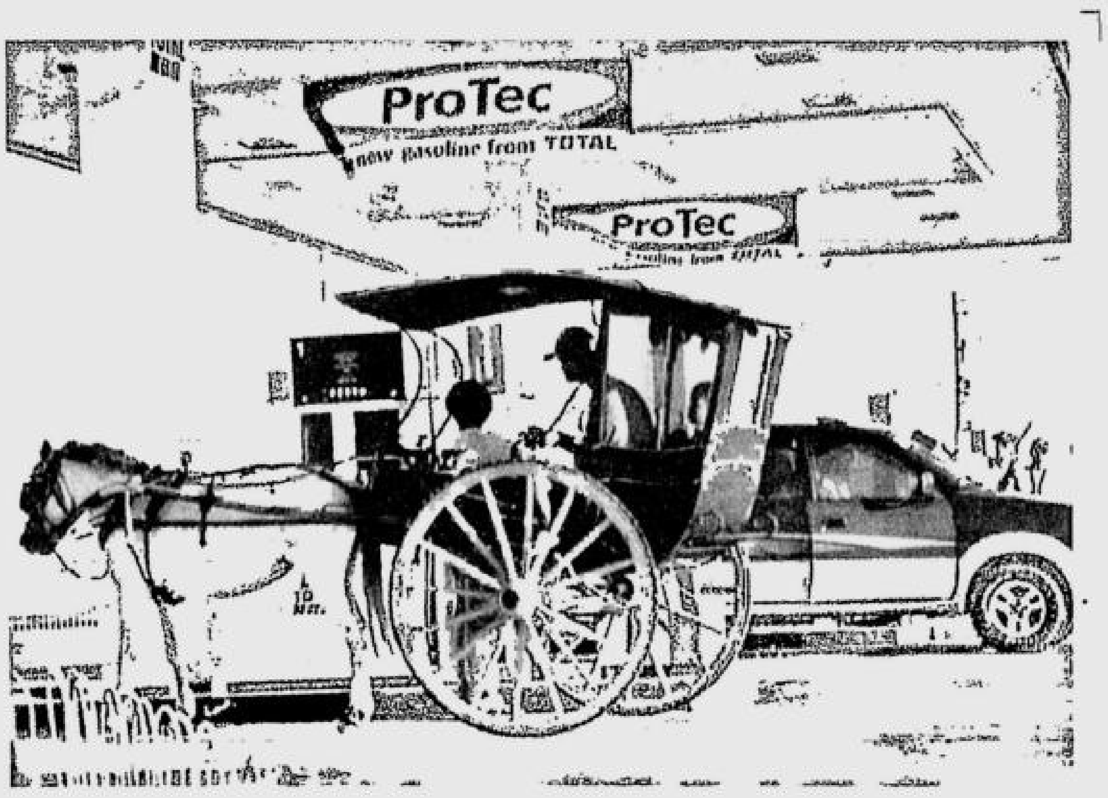
Meanwhile, the total stock of armchairs stands at 7.9 million. The department needs 3.16 million more.

Roco said the DECS would establish a systems contract kind of procurement to speed up the delivery of desks and armchairs to the public schools.

The DECS has built 350,000 classrooms under the Regular School Building Program, but still needs 16,214 classrooms for this year, according to a DECS May 24 report.

Its budget, however, would allow it to build only 7,771 classrooms this school year, resulting in a shortage of 8,443 for 2001.

Roco said the DECS would push for parents' participation in the construction of classrooms as part of a community-building program.



FILL 'ER UP This one-horse-powered "kalesa" doesn't need gas, only grass. So why is this pump boy filling her up? After taking a few shots, freelance photo journalist Judith San Miguel of Pampanga took a closer look and found plastic containers inside the rig being filled up with diesel and gasoline. Photo was taken in Guagua, Pampanga.

2 Filipinas held in UK

LONDON—Two elderly Filipina sisters who tried to cash a forged $25-billion US Federal Reserve Bond at a London bank were arrested and charged with fraud, British police said.

"The women have been charged with using a forged instrument and have been bailed," a City of London police spokesperson said. "They will appear at magistrates' court on June 8." Police did not name the sisters.

Police said the case of attempted fraud was one of the largest ever to be uncovered in Britain but gave no further details of the arrests. *Reuters*

RP sailor dies in Martinique

FORT-DE-FRANCE, Martinique—A Filipino sailor has died after falling from a container ship, police said Friday.

Nestor Gilhang, a second mate of the Anna Catharina and a native of Manila, died Thursday. He was 47.

According to witnesses, he was supervising the loading of the containers when one of them started to fall toward him. Gilhang tried to move away but his head hit an object and he fell in the water.

Authorities said Gilhang's body would be sent back to the Philippines. The ship was heading toward Dominica. *AP*

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More heated debates seen over power reform bill

By C. Avendaño

SENATORS are expected to bring out their oratorical ammunition when they deliberate for possible ratification the bicameral committee report on the power sector reform bill which some lawmakers and civil society groups have claimed had been improperly rushed last week.

But Sen. John Osmeña, chair of the Senate bicameral committee panel that worked on the reconciled Senate-House version of the bill, said he was ready to "answer all concerns" raised by his colleagues.

The House ratified late last week the reconciled version several hours after the four-day special session called by President Macapagal-Arroyo ended.

The power bill, which will privatize the debt-laden National Power Corp. and restructure the power sector, needs to be ratified by the Senate before it can be signed into law.

The Senate has from today until Thursday, the last four days of the 11th Congress' regular session, to ratify the measure.

The bicameral report, which proposes to call the bill the "Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001," says that besides seeking the privatization of Napocor, it aims to ensure "transparent and reasonable prices of electricity in a regime of free and fair competition and full public accountability."

The law will abolish the present Energy Regulatory Board and replace it with the Energy Regulatory Commission to regulate the power industry.

Opposition Senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Vicente Sotto III said they would question the signing of the reconciled version, which they said, was done after Enrile was excluded from the Senate-House bicameral committee meeting last Thursday.

Enrile, a member of the seven-member Senate panel, said he doubted that a formal bicameral meeting took place that day, noting the lack of minutes of the meeting, as well as the absence of the bicameral report itself.

Sotto has admitted, however, that there are times when senators and congressmen agree to do away with holding a joint bicameral meeting on certain bills.

But these involve non-controversial bills like the renaming of schools, he said.

"This should not be done on controversial bills like the power bill where there are many contentious issues," Sotto said.

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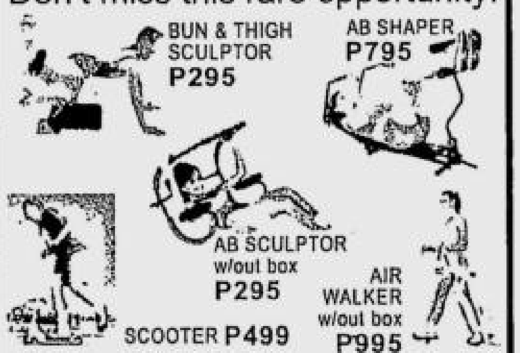
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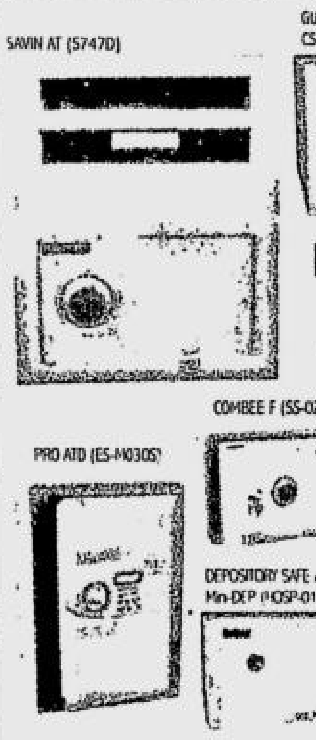
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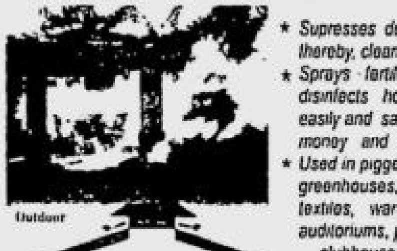
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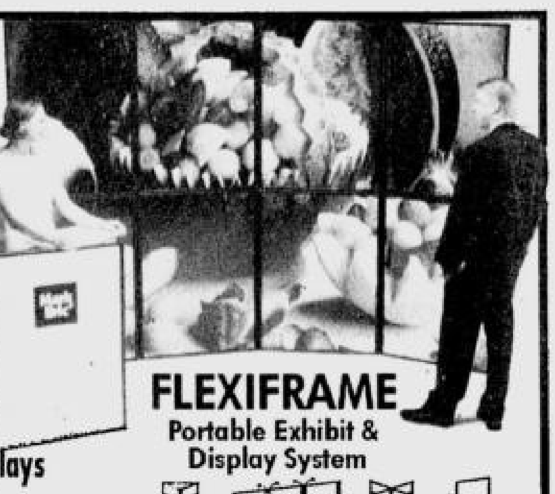
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Tessie richest senator; Flavier poorest

(From page A1)

President Joseph Estrada, Tessie Aquino-Oreta still emerged as the richest senator in the year 2000 with a net worth of P120.7 million.

Oreta's wealth was disclosed in her Statement of Assets and Liabilities (SAL), which all senators are required to file yearly.

Oreta and Sen. John Osmeña, who has yet to file his SAL, had each received P1 million from Estrada as a gift after one of the ex-president's very profitable *mahjong* binges. Both returned the money after they were roundly criticized for accepting it.

Right behind Oreta in the SAL derby is Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., who is worth P116.39 million. Magsaysay's wealth stemmed from real and personal properties, mostly shares in various corporations.

And as in years past, Sen. Juan Flavier, the diminutive rural doctor who rose to become secretary of health in the Ramos administration, was the poorest of the lot—worth a piddling P1.4 million.

In his SAL, Flavier listed his assets, composed mostly of land and buildings, at P430,000—the prices at which he had acquired them.

But his properties, some of which he had bought in the '60s on installment and with bank loans, reportedly have a current fair market value of P24 million.

The SAL asks the senators to list the acquisition costs of their assets but does not require them to show their current fair market value.

Flavier's only liability was the P150,000 loan he took out for the Mitsubishi Space Gear van he bought in 1998 for P990,000.

Oreta listed personal and other properties valued at P100.8 million. Of this amount, P86.4 million was the acquisition cost of investments made in corporations owned by her husband, Antolin Oreta Jr., president of Intra Strata Assurance Corp., a non-life insurance company.

She listed real properties consisting of three residences in Makati City, Malabon and Batangas, and two commercial properties with a total acquisition cost of P25.8 million. Their current market value, however, was estimated at P70 million.

Oreta had liabilities of P6 million, mostly bank loans.

Magsaysay

Magsaysay listed real and personal properties, mainly stocks, with total acquisition costs of P22.8 million and P97.5 million, respectively.

The senator, who won a second term in the May 14 elections, has liabilities of P4 million.

After Magsaysay came former basketball star Robert Jaworski, 1999's richest senator whose net worth plunged by P3 million last year to P110.1 million. His wealth was based on conjugal real properties, as well as investments.

Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste was fourth with a net worth of P105.3 million.

The former broadcast journalist listed real properties, including four condominiums in Makati and Greenhills, and personal and other properties, such as jewelry and club and corporation shares, with acquisition costs of P38.5 million and P85.7 million, respectively.

Her liabilities amounted to P19 million.

No liabilities

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. was 12th on the list with a net worth of P14.6 million. Pimentel, however, had no liabilities.

Another senator who listed no liabilities was Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, who placed sixth with a net worth of P79.7 million.

The other senators and their net worths were: Renato Cayetano (P84.1 million); Sergio Osmeña III (P33.17 million), Miriam Defensor-Santiago (assets with fair market value of P32.8 million), Vicente Sotto (P30.69 million); Ramon Revilla (P22.1 million); Rodolfo Biazon (P20.8 million); Francisco Tatad (P13.1 million); Franklin Drilon (P11.66 million); Robert Barbers (P11.56 million); Blas Ople (P6.7 million); Gregorio Honasan (P6.1 million); and Anna Dominique Coseteng (P4.3 million).

Vice President and Foreign Affairs Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. and Education Secretary Raul Roco, who were both senators in 2000, did not file their SALs.

ORETA: "Richest"

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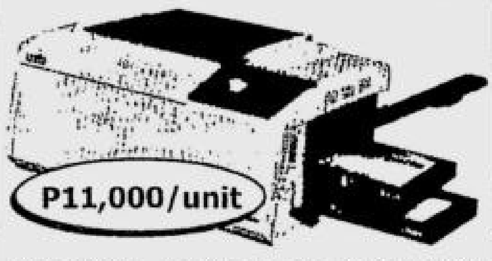

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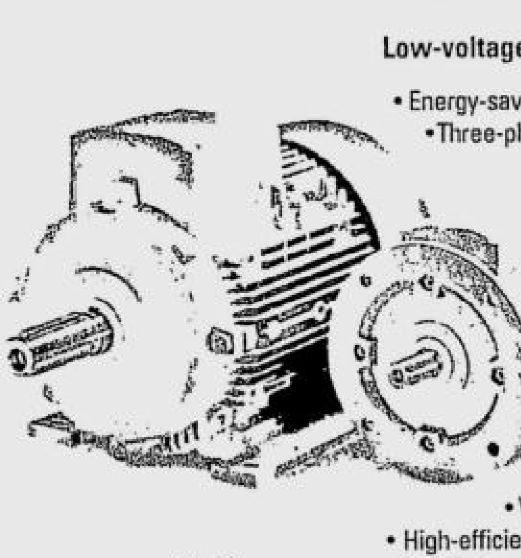

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Civil society bucks agri dep't draft policy on GMOs

By **Dennis Maliwanag**
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LOS BANOS, Laguna—The agriculture department has agreed to hold broader consultations on genetically modified organisms after its draft policy on GMOs was dismissed by civil society as "mere propaganda material of biotech companies."

The Department of Agriculture has underscored the need for modern biotechnology to address poverty in the country in its draft National Policy on Modern Biotechnology and its Products.

"With the rising needs of a rapidly growing population, and the current levels of poverty and unemployment, the country should be able to benefit from the use of modern biotechnology to improve productivity, promote food security, improve health care, sustain the environment and develop our local industries," the draft read.

But at a meeting at the DA office last Friday, farmers, consumers and environmental organizations decried the alleged "pressures exerted by some sectors for the immediate adoption of the document."

They claimed that the agrochemical sector has been lobbying the government to formulate a policy to facilitate the release and commercialization of GMO in the Philippines.

The groups, some of which form part of the Edsa 2 forces that brought the Macapagal-Arroyo administration to power, said the GMO policy document was drafted without the benefit of broad consultations.

Ernesto Ordoñez, the agriculture undersecretary for operations who met with the groups, said he would look into their concerns.

Intense debate has been going on worldwide on genetic engineering in agriculture, with advocates promising more yields and less chemical dependence, while critics allay fears of human and environmental hazards.

In the Philippines, multinational firms Monsanto and Pioneer have been conducting field trials on the genetically modified Bt Corn even as the government's bio-safety regulatory agency is studying their applications to conduct trials on genetically engineered rice varieties.

Meanwhile, GMO food and agricultural products have been finding their way, virtually unhampered, into the domestic market as Congress continues to sit on mandatory labeling bills.

The civil society groups, which include Greenpeace, Searice, Mother Earth, Masipag and the Philippine Peasant Institute, also questioned "inaccuracies in the data cited" in the draft policy.

They also said the draft policy also did not take into consideration the latest statements from the Vatican on genetic engineering in agriculture.

On Nov. 12 last year, Pope John Paul II, speaking before an estimated 50,000 farmers, said that using genetically modified organisms to increase production was contrary to God's will.

The Pope called on farmers worldwide to "resist the temptation of high productivity and profit that work to the detriment of the respect of nature."

"When (farmers) forget this basic principle and become tyrants of the earth rather than its custodians, sooner or later the earth rebels," he said.

'No law yet for mandatory labeling'

By **Joey Lozano**
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—Read the ingredients carefully before you bite into that hotdog or barbecue snack chip.

Or, even more important, before you feed your baby with a famous infant formula or cereal.

Chances are, these items contain genetically modified organisms.

The problem is, however, these products do not say so, says Francis Joseph de la Cruz of the Citizens' Alliance for Consumer Protection.

And their manufacturers can look you straight in the eye and say they are operating within the law.

"And they are right because there is no law yet for mandatory labeling," says De la Cruz.

With Greenpeace and Konsumo Dabaw, this city's leading consumer advocate De la Cruz has embarked on an information campaign blitz in key areas of Mindanao for the recall of GMO-laden food until a law for mandatory labeling is passed.

Greenpeace is a global environmental organization which is active in many countries and regions worldwide.

A recent Pulse Asia survey commissioned by Greenpeace indicated that only three percent of the Mindanao population is aware of what GMO is and its possible implications.

The national capital region has an awareness level of 16 percent, Luzon, 13 and Visayas, 9.

Greenpeace's Beau Baconguis revealed that out of 30 products retrieved from Manila supermarkets and which were sent for testing by a respected Hong Kong food-testing laboratory, 11 contained GMOs.

These are Bonus Vienna Franks, Rica Protina Hotdogs, Campo Carne Moby Hotdogs, Purefoods Beefy Hotdogs, Quality Foods Budget Franks, Foodmart Enterprises Crab Cakes, Hong Chi Food Yung Ho Soya Drink, Doritos Smokey Red Barbecue, Nestle Nesvita Natural Cereal Drink, Isomil Soy Infant Formula, and Knorr Cream of Corn Soup.

These products may only represent the tip of the iceberg in terms of GMO content, said Greenpeace.

Other genetically engineered crops that bear watching are soy, corn, canola and cotton, Konsumo Dabaw's Socorro Requiza advised.

Environmentalists have advised caution in the consumption of GMO-laden food in the absence of established consensus among scientists.

Even local scientists are divided on the issue. Some follow the argument of substantial equivalence, that is, one assumes that GMOs are safe or as safe as their natural counterparts, unless proven otherwise.

Others take the precautionary principle, that is, they assume that GMOs are not safe, unless proven otherwise.

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(From page A1)

tage-taking on April 23, 2000 and that by the Macapagal administration of the Dos Palmas abduction.

It took five months of negotiations and military operations before the 21 Sipadan hostages—including nine Malaysians, three Germans, two French, two South Africans, two Finns, two Filipinos and a Lebanese woman—were freed in batches.

The first batch of Malaysians was released in July. The last batch—two Finns, a Frenchman and a German—was freed on Sept. 9.

Less cluttered

This time, the rescue operations are less cluttered and the policy is clear, although President Macapagal-Arroyo is speaking the same tough rhetoric that Estrada used—with different results. There's hardly any money involved in the present operations, except for the bounty put on the heads of the Abu Sayyaf leaders.

Estrada was full of bluster to fight the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Abu Sayyaf with threats like they will be crushed. Ms Macapagal has vowed, "*Uubusin natin ang mga bandido* (We will wipe out the bandits)" and "*Isang bala na lang kayo* (You are worth only one bullet)."

Estrada bellowed similar tough words. The difference is that he was a happy warrior, in fatigues, and she is not. But in her tough action on the Abu Sayyaf, there are immediate results. Estrada loyalists, who claim they are compassionate (a virtue they recently discovered), did not find anything wrong when Estrada hurled verbal thunderbolts at the MILF and the Abu Sayyaf, vowing to crush them.

There have been criticisms that the government is less compassionate to the hostages by using the mailed fist to the exclusion of negotiations.

Military pressure

Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, Armed Forces spokesperson, claims channels of negotiations have been opened, and so does the presidential spokesperson, Rigoberto Tiglao. There's sense in opening negotiations, but without military pressure, this approach does not work. What seems clear is that instant tough military action has put the Abu Sayyaf on the run.

ARMY soldiers guard the streets of Lamitan after members of the Abu Sayyaf, including their hostages, escaped the military assault.
DENNIS SABANGAN

Knuckling down to ransom demands invites more excessive demands. Witness the protracted negotiations involving ransom money in the Sipadan hostage-taking. In the Sipadan abduction, an estimated $20 million was pumped into the negotiations channel through Estrada's negotiator, Robert Aventajado, yet the hostages had to agonize for months before being freed.

Today, there's hardly any money involved, mainly because the United States is firm in the policy of not giving ransom money, and the Philippine government has no money to grease negotiations.

This time, the military operations and the government are better coordinated. Only authorized spokespersons brief the press about tactical details of the operations. Adan is the authorized spokesperson of the military, and no one under him gives information to the press.

Information control

In the Sipadan case, no one was in control of information. Aventajado, who had his eyes set for the Senate elections, played to the hilt the publicity value of the negotiations for which he was the main conduit, without achieving early results. He and Commander Robot of the Abu Sayyaf were competing for space and air time in the media, and Estrada officials, including some Cabinet officials, were talking their mouths off, often contradicting one another.

Today, the government is better organized to cope with this crisis and has got its act together, regardless of whether media are happy with the temporary news blackout.

What has come out clearly in the military operations is that the Abu Sayyaf has more advanced weaponry than the Armed Forces. This has something to do with the tempo of modernization of the Armed Forces. Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. has recognized this weapon gap in the current operations where Volvo engine-powered boats of the bandits travel faster than Navy gunboats and slip through naval blockades.

Whether the government puts higher priority to military punitive action than to negotiations is not clear at this stage. But if we are talking about ransom, the policy is that the freedom for the hostages is non-negotiable. Our experience with ransom money as the fulcrum to secure the release of hostages in the Sipadan abduction proved that effective military or police action is at least as important as negotiations over money.

Policy results

There has been so far no indication from the Abu Sayyaf about political demands. There was nothing, therefore, to negotiate on a *quid pro quo* between political demands and the release of the hostages. Clearly, there have been casualties, and more casualties should be expected. But at the end of the day, the results of a policy are what matter.

The roots of Moro raids and outlawry are deep. They are embedded in the history of the continuing effort to subjugate Muslim Mindanao and put it under the control of the Philippine state. For immediate purposes, however, the objective is to demonstrate that the Abu Sayyaf has to pay a high price for its depredations.

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Senate pushes 'administrative naturalization'

THE SENATE committee on justice and human rights has endorsed a bill providing for the "administrative naturalization" of some 50,000 Philippine-born individuals whose parents are not Filipino citizens.

Minority leader Renato Cayetano (Lakas), committee chair, said Senate Bill 1178 would allow Philippine-born persons of foreign parents to acquire Philippine citizenship without going through a tedious and lengthy judicial process.

Cayetano said the measure would also enable the national government to collect billions of pesos in processing fees, income it could surely use.

The House of Representatives had earlier passed a counterpart measure—House Bill 12228—providing for the same administrative naturalization.

Under the Senate and House bills, qualified individuals must submit applications to a three-member Special Committee on Naturalization.

The committee shall be composed of the solicitor general as chair, with the secretary of foreign affairs and the national security adviser as members.

The Senate and House bills contain identical guidelines. Individuals wishing to avail of administrative naturalization must have been born in the Philippines and a resident of the country since birth.

Other requirements are petitioner must be.

- Not less than 18 years old at the time of filing of petition/application.
- Of good moral character and must believe in the Constitution.
- Educated at a school where Philippine history, government and civics were taught.
- Knowledgeable of a trade, business, profession, or other lawful occupation.
- Able to read, write and speak Filipino or any of the Philippine dialects.
- Able to relate socially to Filipinos and evince a sincere desire to learn and embrace the customs, traditions and ideals of the Filipino people.

32 Negros farmers get own land

UNDER heavy guard, 32 farmers finally took possession of their own lands over the weekend, after three haciendas in Negros Occidental were broken up under the government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

The farmers, all holders of Certificates of Land Ownership Award given to them by government had waited more than a decade to finally occupy the lands they were entitled to.

"This is a glorious day for agrarian reform and for our farmers," said Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza, who had been criticized earlier by the Negros farmers for his failure to install them in their promised land.

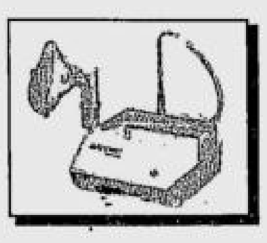
DAR officials backed by 60 fully-armed soldiers and policemen escorted the farmers to the 33-hectare Hacienda Agueda, the 14-ha Hacienda Espinos and the 10.72-ha Hacienda Fanny, all located in La Castellana town.

The Army and the Philippine National Police have been asked by Braganza to put up a detachment in the area to guard against trouble, particularly the harassment of the farmers by armed employees of the hacienda owners.

"May this send a strong message to those who continue to defy the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law in Negros. You may succeed in delaying the implementation of the program, but our farmers will get their piece of the land in the end," Braganza said.

The Negros farmers belong to Task Force Mapalad, a non-governmental organization whose members have been picketing the DAR office in Quezon City for more than a month to demand the installation of farmers in six Negros Occidental haciendas.

Braganza said DAR has successfully installed farmers in five of the six haciendas, in the three months he has been secretary.*Cynthia D. Balana*



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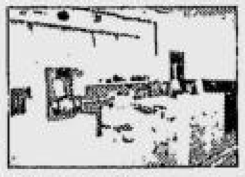

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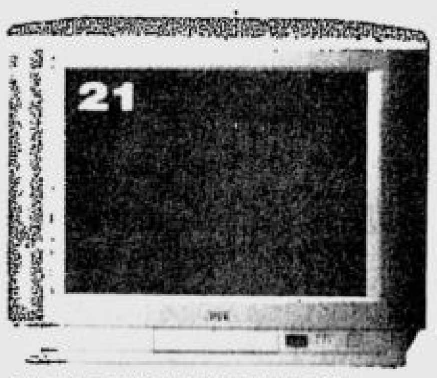

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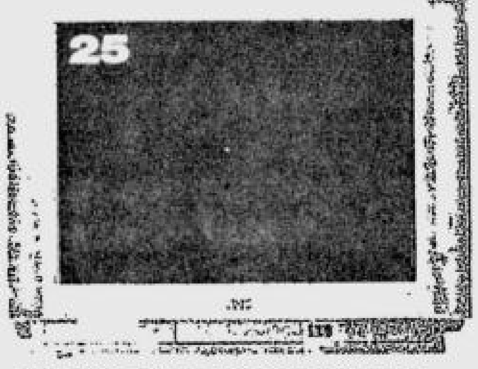

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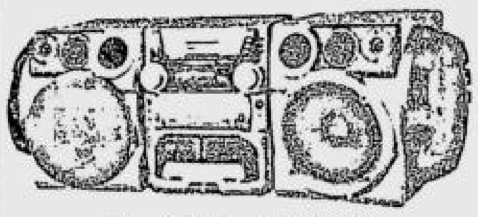

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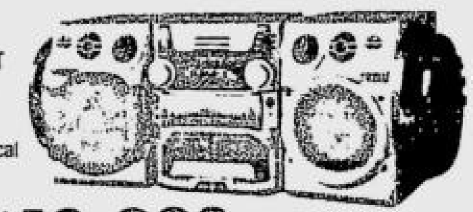

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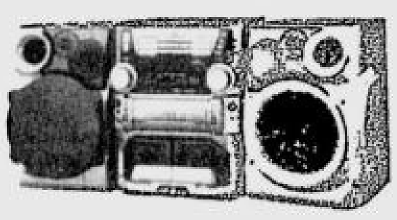

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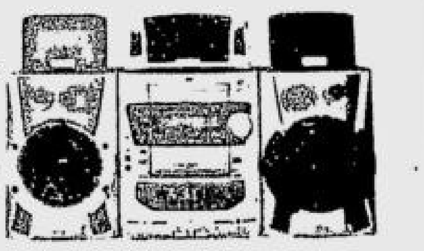

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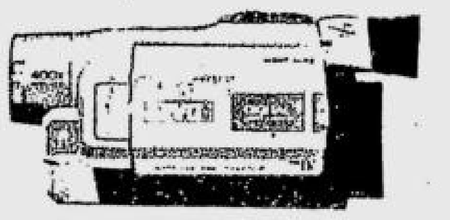

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EDITORIALS

Quantity

LIKE the furies, the same problems attend the opening of the new school year: classes loaded to the seams, lack of schoolrooms if not school buildings, dearth of teachers, shortage of textbooks, and, would you believe, scarcity of chalk and blackboard? The education department won't give the ballpark figures for the deficit, but that's okay. Its public school teachers who have barely recovered from the fatigue and the horror of counting the ballots of the May 14 elections in cumbersome Commission on Elections fashion.

But Education Secretary Raul Roco is not prone to imposing news blackouts. So in a moment of candor, he said that while he already has 8 million books ready, that's hardly a dent at the real need of 150 million books. He adds that the current budget allows him to recruit 7,000 new teachers, while the real need is 36,000. That means present realities permit him to satisfy only one-fifth of the teacher requirement of our public schools. Considering we live in a nation of spellbinding patterns, it is easy to presume that the same satisfaction ratio applies to the other deficits as well.

It is not as if the education department is short of means to meet the demand. As Roco himself has found out, a P12-billion World Bank facility since 1997 is supposed to remedy the classroom shortage and build some 2,000 rooms a year; but in 1998, the department only managed to build two. The performance has improved to 200 this year, but that's still below the target. The catch is that the government pays P70 million a year as commitment fee, which amounts to P420 million in the six-year life span of the program. Which means that after five years, the country will have paid tens of millions to signify commitment to a program whose tens of billions it has failed to use for the purpose it has paid good people's money for to ensure its commitment and compliance.

Get the picture? If not, imagine this: billions of pesos down the drain, lots of commitment and some more millions to go with them, and still no classrooms.

How a bureaucracy that is the biggest in government could not even do the paperwork to put to use billions in multilateral aid already in the pipeline is something that should be explained to the millions of Filipino kids who study in decrepit, if not non-existent, classrooms, and to the millions more who have dropped out. What we have here is not the old problem of poor absorptive capacity. It is the perennial tragedy of the Philippines. It is the old story of sheer incompetence and utter waste.

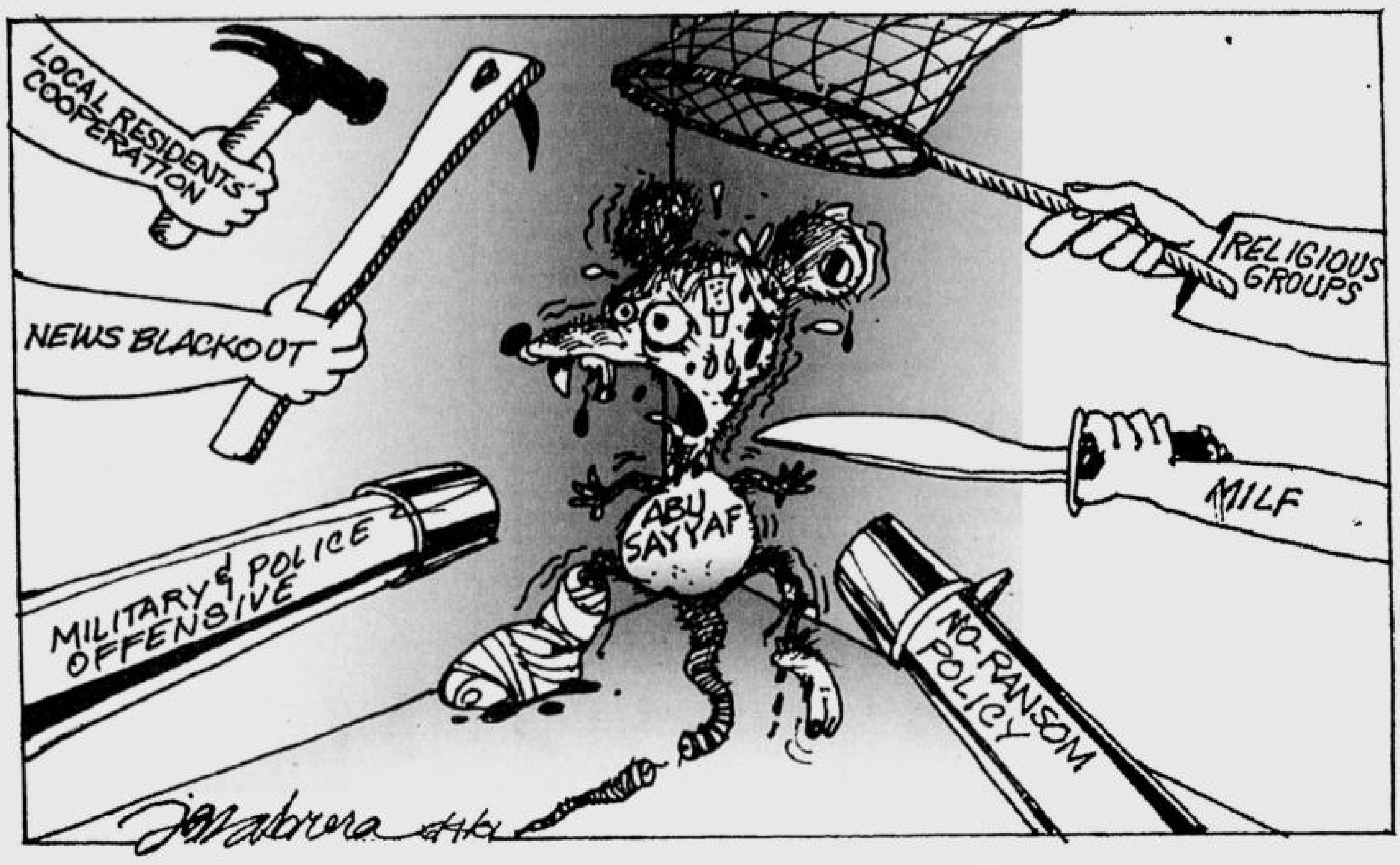
Quality

PERHAPS the greater tragedy is that as long as the education system fails to competently meet basic numerical requirements, it will not be able to attend to the more critical issue of quality in education. As long as the system remains caught up in a statistical peat bog, sometimes largely of its own making, then it cannot address the more hearty matters of relevance and direction.

For example, despite their broad literacy, Filipinos continue to lag behind science and technology in the region as shown in a survey of Asian students in mathematical and scientific abilities. Moreover, a higher education system that has become increasingly commercial and dominated by private schools must balance the needs of the job market and the needs of Philippine development.

But many will perhaps admit that the more pressing need is a reform of basic education. After all, even the higher education system complains of half-baked high school graduates incapable of the fundamental scholastic aptitude required of college students. Higher education is forced to play catch-up, undoing the damage on young people by basic education. The waste in the primary and secondary years is merely transposed to college. The vicious cycle is endless.

Two administrations ago, higher education officials had envisioned the Philippines as the knowledge capital of Asia, a visioning that had no moorings on reality. After all, literacy does not translate to relevant knowledge and useful information. Basic education continues to suffer under the weight of its own statistical inadequacies and its own lack of focus and direction, and what we are seeking is not the makings of a knowledge capital, but a population of dunces.



Garchitorena on Sandigan delay of Marcos cases

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

I DON'T understand the policies of the Macapagal administration. They are contradictory. On power, it wants to privatize the National Power Corp. But on banking, its policy is the opposite. It wants the government to again take over the already privatized Philippine National Bank.

If you'll remember, the PNB was government-owned from 1916 to 1996. As the official government depository and the country's biggest bank during the 80 years of government supervision, its record was less than satisfactory. Thus, controlling interest was sold to the private sector. Taipan Lucio Tan was the only banker who had the money and the willingness to invest in the PNB. But Tan is the favorite whipping boy of the nation and now that he controls the PNB, the government wants to "governmentalize" it again.

To justify a government takeover, a propaganda campaign was waged against Tan in media. Tan supposedly acquired special favors from the bank while he was in control of the PNB, that he violated the Dosri (Directors, Officers, Stockholders and Related Interests) rules, that his three companies—Philippine Airlines, Fortune Tobacco and Asia Brewery—owe the PNB P5 billion without sufficient collateral, etc.

Having had my deposits in the Urban Bank frozen when it closed, and fearful that my deposits in the PNB would suffer the same fate, I attended the annual stockholders' meeting of the PNB last week. I am glad to report to other fearful PNB depositors that the speculations and innuendoes against the present PNB management are false.

At Tuesday's meeting, PNB president Feliciano Miranda explained that Tan received no special favors from the bank. In fact, he said Tan infused P20 billion in fresh equity into the ailing bank in less than a year. This, he stressed, is unparalleled in Philippine banking history as no other banker has been able to put so much cash in so short a time.

Second, Miranda clarified that the Lucio Tan Group of Companies got no special favors or treatment from the bank. He said the three Tan-owned firms do have combined debts of P5 billion but which are all fully secured, prior to Tan's takeover of the bank in 1999, he explained.

After he assumed control of the PNB, Tan never incurred any indebtedness to the bank which, Miranda said, negate allegations that Tan broke the Dosri rules.

But what is surprising is the revelation by PNB chair Norberto Nazareno that the biggest debtor in the books of the PNB is the government itself. Government agencies have an estimated P13 billion in outstanding loans in the PNB. Some firms, like the defunct Philippine Sugar Commission, have long been closed but their debts are still in the PNB books. The Macapagal administration, Nazareno said, has decided to finally settle the debts owed by government agencies. By settling these accounts and offsetting them against the PNB's current obligations to the government, the bank would be able to clean its books and significantly reduce its debts.

In addition, the government will share in the responsibility of resuscitating the bank by increasing its stake to 30 percent. Apparently, the Macapagal administration is willing to work with the present management in rehabilitating the PNB.

But this is not saying that the PNB is healthy. And meanwhile, when will the Urban Bank be reopened?

* * *

Last May 25, I asked here why the Marcos cases are not moving in the Sandiganbayan. Former President Estrada's trial will be held every day in the Sandiganbayan but the Marcos cases have hardly moved in 15 years. Why the difference? I asked.

I also said that the division headed by Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena has the most number of cases and that while the Sandiganbayan was created to precisely speed up graft cases against government personnel, it now seems to be the slowest of all the courts.

Garchitorena faxed me a comment saying that my informant, an associate justice of the Sandiganbayan, was wrong. He said his division, the first, has only eight cases. The second, third and fourth divisions have 9, 11 and 10 cases each, respectively. The fifth division has the least, only 6 cases.

Unfortunately, the presiding justice forgot to name the chairpersons of the different divisions and why the Marcos cases are moving so slowly in all of them. But he said that cases are not assigned to each justice until the case is submitted for decision.

He also gave me a breakdown of all the criminal and civil cases against Imelda Marcos and her cronies in the Sandiganbayan.

Of the eight cases in Garchitorena's first division, two were dismissed; Imelda and her co-defendants were acquitted in two, and convicted in two, both of which were reversed by the Supreme Court. Two criminal cases are still pending. Of the 28 criminal cases in all the other divisions, 15 have been disposed of and 13 are still pending.

Of the 35 civil cases, 31 are still pending and only four have been disposed of. Eight of these pending cases are in Garchitorena's first division. The complainant and prosecutor in all the civil cases is the Presidential Commission on Good Government. From these figures, judge for yourself if their respective performances are satisfactory.

But my point in the May 25 column is that if the Sandiganbayan wants to hasten certain cases, like those against Erap, it can do so. Why has it not done so in the Marcos cases?

* * *

Comments are welcome at asiseeit@pacific.net.ph

Lost

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IT is well to recall today, the first day of classes, Lee Kuan Yew's comment on the relationship between democracy and education. Philippine democracy, he said shortly after Edsa II, was bogus democracy. There can be no real democracy without education. And the Philippines is anything but educated.

Well, as I said in a column a couple of months ago, education does not take place in schools alone. Education takes place in the bigger classroom that is life. Political education in particular isn't best taught—and learned—in classrooms, it is best taught and learned in the streets. Or the hills, where some people, who have despaired of learning it in the streets, have sought it. The equation isn't: First, you get politically educated, then you get a democracy. It is: First, you get a democracy, then you get politically educated. Or more accurately, first you struggle for democracy, then you get politically educated, the struggle itself being a hugely educative experience. People power has a thing or two to teach Singapore itself.

But, on the other hand, it is true that this country is monumentally uneducated, in the classroom sense of the word. Which poses the most monumental dangers to democracy. Indeed, which makes the question about that democracy's integrity a valid one, even if Lee Kuan Yew is not the best person to raise it. "Elite democracy" is how some people call Philippine democracy, which is as sublime a contradiction of terms as they come. But it makes sense in a way: Formal freedoms exist but are subverted in practice by a monumental divide between rich and poor, a divide characterized by the rich enjoying mind-boggling privileges and the poor enduring Jobian deprivation. Which is reinforced by the education of one and the lack of education of the other.

We need education to bridge the divide, or at least to narrow it down. Education is the great leveler, or it is at least again the best way to lessen the imbalance. "How can we educate the *masa*?" is the question that has been asked by thoughtful Filipinos in the wake of "Edsa III" and the last elections. Well, part of the answer stares us right in the face. We can educate the *masa* quite literally by sending them to school.

Schools are the greatest magic there is. That is where they conjure sorcery of a kind more powerful than the one Mike Velarde does every Saturday at the Rizal Park. That is where they work transformations of a kind more amazing than any carnival or *perya* offers. Schools are the difference between a kid in Payatas spending the rest of his life picking through refuse, or picking through other people's pockets, and picking through the scabs and sores of people as a doctor or lawyer later on. They are the difference between men, women and children rioting in Mendiola in an explosion of rage after being mute for so long, which was "Edsa III," and men, women and children marching in the streets in a show of outrage after being oppressed for so long, which were Edsa I and II.

Education does not just teach skills, it teaches values. Education does not just give knowledge, it gives hope. Education is empowering in more ways than that it enables people to find jobs. It is empowering in that it enables people to find ways to get around being down and out. The real essence of poverty is not being without money, it is being without a sense of possibility. The real essence of poverty is not being jobless or not having a livelihood, it is not knowing how to get a job or livelihood. The educated man may not have money or a job or a livelihood at some point in his life, but he knows he has the capacity to find one, or even make one if he has the entrepreneurial spirit. The uneducated man can only despair at ever finding one. An educated man will repose his trust in himself, an uneducated man will repose his trust in fate. Or Erap, which is life spelled backwards.

But education precisely is what we are not giving the *masa*. The statistics must certainly suggest that we are not getting nearer to the dream of universal education, we are going farther from it. Poverty by itself is the greatest deterrent to education, many dirt-poor parents keeping their children out of school to help put food on the table. And if that isn't enough, the cost of education is rising each year, at the very least in terms of transportation and allowance for the kids in public elementary schools. The enrolment rates are bad enough, barely scratching the surface of the juvenile population, the drop-out rates are worse. As studies show, most kids who get only to second or third grade lapse back to a state of illiteracy.

To this day, I cannot understand why we make debt payments rather than education the No. 1 priority of this country: The first and not the second claims the biggest portion of the budget. The argument is that if we do not pay the debt first, the direst things will happen to us. But what about the dire things that will happen to us if we do not educate the bulk of the population now? We seem to think that if we forgo that for the moment to satisfy our creditors, we can do it later when we have the means to do so. Not so.

Years ago, the United Nations came up with a fantastic phrase to describe the people who lost their opportunity to eat adequately (which led to the stunting of brains) and go to school (which led to the addling of brains) as a result of their countries being compelled to pay back the debts their leaders, often two-bit tyrants, owed the foreign banks. That phrase was "the lost generation." As that phrase suggests, the loss was not a temporary one, it was a permanent one. The kids who were deprived wholesale of food and education in the 1980s as a result of a massive transfer of wealth from the South to the North—the new colonial order, some writers called it—will never have the opportunity to get back the things they lost. They are lost forever. They are the lost generation. And they are the adults of today

The kids we deprive of education—and food—today to pay off our debts will never be able to make up for what they lose later in life. Their loss is permanent. They will be the new batch of a lost generation that will hound this country for the next generations. We know exactly what that means. The riots in Mendiola are the writing on the wall.

Education alone does not guarantee democracy. But democracy does need education to work. We do not see that, and we can mount as many Edsas as we want, and we will never come closer to the dream of building a true democracy than we started. We do not see that, and all our efforts will simply be—lost.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

Whither Radio Mindanao Network?

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IT'S World Environment Day tomorrow, June 5, which is part of the month-long celebration of "Philippine Environment Month." Scheduled for this morning, Monday, June 4, from 9 a.m.-12 noon is a live telethon over RPN 9 where you readers and TV viewers can call in, e-mail or text all your concerns about the environment where we live in. The "Tele-Kalikasan," organized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, opens with a special Environment Month message by President Macapagal to the Filipino nation; this will be followed by segments on such issues as clean, air, forest, water, solid waste management and environmental education. Hosted by Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, the telethon will feature NGOs, civil society representatives, business, media, concerned show-biz personalities, tribal youth and even winners of the Miss Philippines Earth pageant.

The telethon should be an opportunity to air all our apprehensions about the kind of world our children will inherit from us. Let's get involved with our environment.

* * *

A news item in yesterday's Star spoke about an alleged attempt by Press Undersecretary for Broadcast Cerge Remonde to "muzzle" Radio Mindanao Network (RMN) for its Zamboanga station's broadcast of efforts to rescue the hostages kidnapped from the Dos Palmas Resort. Remonde, who until his Palace appointment headed the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkasters ng Pilipinas, allegedly impressed upon RMN the state's power over its franchise while reiterating government's appeal for a news blackout on military operations. The network was earlier quoted, in response to presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao's demand for an explanation of its broadcast, that it deemed the request of the kidnappers for coverage as urgent, considering the lives of the hostages involved.

* * *

This columnist tracked down Remonde in Zamboanga City where he has been holed up since the President sent him there last Friday evening. Remonde vehemently denied using the "franchise line" on RMN. "I would never do that," he said, stressing that he comes from the broadcast industry, until as late as three months ago, and that "I know what kind of line would work with my fellow broadcasters."

Remonde admitted that his situation is difficult. "*Para akong naiipit sa dalawang naguumpugang bato*, the military and the media, over the Basilan crisis," he said. He regards his role as a mediator who hopes to bring both clashing factions to greater cooperation in this crisis. Remonde points out that RMN commentator Ely Saludar even apologized to him after the controversial broadcast and said he might have misunderstood the Palace official's two-pronged appeal: that the network does not air any interview of Abu Sabaya live, and that it does not cover military operations.

Actually it is fortuitous that Remonde comes from the broadcast industry himself, as he could relate to both groups. For instance, he has been in constant touch with RMN Zamboanga manager Ray Bayugin, an old comrade. But obviously more coordination has to be done.

* * *

Recall that RMN owner Butch Canoy was among those who attended the Palace cocktail for media network officials soon after the Dos Palmas raid and that Canoy even told interviewers right after that RMN has agreed to cooperate with the government. But between that avowal and delivery of results by its Zamboanga station, there has been a disconcerting gap. When reports came about RMN broadcasting Abu Sabaya live after the President's appeal, sources say that Ms Macapagal, then in the middle of a crisis committee meeting, hit the roof, displaying the famous temper. She reportedly called Canoy personally to protest the rebel leader's free access to RMN and Canoy was said to have apologized.

Actually a lot of concern over the rebels' access was also aired in Zamboanga by National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, AFP Chief Diomedio Villanueva, SouthCom Chief Gregorio Camiling and presidential assistant Jess Dureza, as well as Tiglao in Manila. All this has exerted pressure on RMN.

* * *

As I had earlier stated, few media outlets have a problem respecting the government's demand for a news blackout on military operations, especially since a twice-daily briefings on the war against the Abu Sayyaf are conducted by the AFP and the Palace. What's difficult is when media are able to get news stories through sheer enterprise—then they're liable to feel they cannot be covered by the news embargo. As in the case of RMN, it becomes doubly difficult when the stories involve human interest that becomes intertwined with military operations; this is the situation with the ongoing rescue operation.

* * *

Where does one draw the line between freedom of expression and national security? Ultimately much would depend on the media practitioners' sense of patriotism and oneness with the government against its perceived enemies. Government may indeed choose to apply the squeeze on the franchise aspect, though I doubt if this would be a tool of Ms Macapagal's people, or if it would work. More than worry about its franchise, RMN has to justify its defiance of the Palace appeal to the people, who by and large support the state's position on regulated access to war information.

Should a media network give the Abu Sayyaf quarters or cooperate with the state in this national emergency? I think most of us in the media know which side we are in in this crisis. I don't know about RMN.

* * *

One of those hostaged by the Abu Sayyaf bandits in their latest terroristic adventure was Fr. Cirilo Nacorda, parish priest of St. Peter's Church in Lamitan, Basilan, but he is said to be no stranger to this bandit group. According to the INQUIRER's Mindanao bureau, seven years ago Nacorda was captured by the Basilan group and held captive for 61 days. Then in 1994 he was again seized, this time among 74 victims of the Abu Sayyaf and that in captivity the Abu Sayyaf tried to convert the priest to Islam, to no avail. But what's interesting is that despite these traumatic experiences and the clear threat to their lives, Father Nacorda and several other priests and nuns serving in seven parishes of Basilan refused to leave the province and their flock. Many people are now very worried about Father Nacorda and the other religious, given the martyrdom that befell Fr. Rhoel Gallardo last year, and they are texting furiously for prayers for Father Nacorda and his group.

* * *

The refusal of the religious to leave Basilan despite the constant threat to their lives there constitutes yet another instance of the often unsung sacrifices of these religious for God and country. Theirs is not an isolated case and there are thousands like them all over the world who think nothing of staring death in the face for love of God and their flock. One thinks too, of the heroic priests and nuns who refused to leave the East Timorese people during the atrocities committed by Indonesian troops. These stories seldom make the front page: what are sensationalized are the transgressions such as when the Vatican made the "admission" that rape has been committed by the religious, which, considering the number of the religious, are few and isolated.

Bush knocked off stride, but he will recover

NEWS ANALYSIS

Ron Fournier

WASHINGTON—A senator's defection. Public relations missteps. Foreign policy surprises. Five months in office, President George W. Bush has suffered a series of setbacks knocking him off his confident stride.

He came into office with an experienced team and the pugnacious pluck of a man determined to seize a mandate. He planned to avoid the early term jitters that plague many presidents and to pour political capital into his conservative agenda.

He was the nation's first MBA president, running the government like a business.

And then reality struck.

"They've hit a few bumps in the road," said presidential analyst Stephen Hess of the Brookings Institution. "Suddenly, we see they're not as smart as they thought they were."

Bush loses control of the Senate next week when Republican Sen. James Jeffords officially leaves the party, accusing the president and other Republican leaders of being too conservative.

The defection revealed flaws in Bush's political network—the White House missed warnings of the Vermont lawmaker's intentions—and raised questions about Bush's ability to keep moderates in the fold.

It was the biggest miscue in a series of setbacks that suggest Bush is experiencing presidential growing pains. Among them:

- Secretary of State Colin Powell failed this week to persuade Nato allies to take a step toward endorsing the administration's plan for a national missile defense, despite weeks of intensive diplomacy.
- With no warning, the United States lost its seat on the United Nations Human Rights Council in a secret vote.
- The administration had to abandon a US-British plan to restructure sanctions against Iraq by June 3, bowing instead to Russian and Chinese demands for further delay.
- Vice President Dick Cheney, the architect of so many White House initiatives, undermined public relations plans for his energy report by seemingly dismissing conservation programs as "a sign of personal virtue."
- Cheney opened himself and the White House to criticism by using his formal residence to entertain top Republican donors.
- Bush traveled to Los Angeles this week to meet with Gov. Gray Davis after the Democrat, emboldened by the president's own remarks and actions, accused Bush of having little sympathy for California voters stung by soaring electricity bills.

A senior Republican who works with the Bush team said the president lost some political stature by flying across the country for an audience with a governor. Bush's staff knew the risks, the official said, but he had no choice.

He is not the first president thrown off by a learning curve.

Bill Clinton stumbled in the first days of his presidency, moving awkwardly to end the gays-in-the-military ban and withdrawing top nominees under fire.

The first President Bush bragged about not having a 100-day plan, creating the impression that he had no vision or fresh ideas.

Jimmy Carter appointed a staff with precious little Washington experience. Ronald Reagan didn't know his own housing secretary, and misidentified the top House Republican.

"Every White House team goes through a rough patch. The secret is getting back on the offensive with our agenda," said Republican consultant Scott Reed.

Though Bush's missteps are no worse than those of his predecessors, it's worth watching to see how he responds.

Can he navigate the Democratic Senate? Will he build a coalition to pass his energy package? How will his European trips in June and July effect anti-American sentiments abroad?

The presidential campaign may offer a clue to his ability to rebound: An overly confident Bush lost the New Hampshire primary, then he regrouped—chastened by defeat—to drive Arizona Sen. John McCain from the race.

Erwin Hargrove, political science professor at Vanderbilt University, said Bush created his own trouble by stubbornly pushing an agenda that is slightly more conservative than the mainstream.

"Is it inexperience? Is it growing pains? Or is it a more serious ineptness? That's the question," Hargrove said. "I think it's simply arrogance. I think it's straight-down arrogant to think they could impose their programs on such an evenly divided Congress without a little more give."

Dismissing such talk, Republican consultants Alex Castellanos and Rich Bond said voters don't pay attention to the minutia of UN votes and public relations missteps. Americans watch for bigger cues from their president.

And they may soon see some from Bush.

Tax cuts and refunds are on the way. A landmark education bill is moving through Congress. Bush helped free 21 airmen from China, passing his first foreign policy test, and polls show a majority approve of his job performance.

"He has gotten nicked and cut along the way," Bond said. "But I think you have to give great weight to those big three or four things he's done well—not the minor 10 things that went wrong."

AP

After elections come the reigns

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

SENATORS who will not be returning to that damaged institution to repair it and redeem themselves, include some whose remarkable careers, personalities and tragic flaws are indelibly stamped in the public's memory.

Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who was almost president in 1992, but whom fate mercifully did not foist on the Philippines, did not make the cut in her bid for reelection to the Senate. She goes out in a blaze of logical and constitutional fiddlesticks, living proof that the mere declamation of legal knowledge is empty ostentation unless inspired by justice and the common sense of right and wrong. Neither the bigness of hair, the comeliness of gams, nor a vituperative mouth, not even self-evident smarts, can make up for the lack of a sincere and generous heart.

If she escaped charges of rebellion during the May 1 riots, it may be because she could not effectively translate her academic take on the law into the idiom of hatred and resentment needed to fire up the mobs at Edsa. She was saved by an inability to connect with the crowds, as if she were speaking in tongues, but with no Holy Spirit to make the masses understand. It is an ironic end for someone who packaged herself as a graft-busting fighter of corruption, only to go down in flames defending a corrupt president in Erap. Her political epitaph could be a text hoax I received claiming the street she lives on has been renamed in her honor as "Sen. Miriam D. Santiago St. (formerly Matino)."

She might have wished for the more quiet and dignified end chosen by her erstwhile Senate ally, and drum major for the Erap bloc there, Sen. Francisco Tatad, whom we may not hear from again in any substantial way until his purported book on the subject of the Erap trial is published. Although this promises to make for contentious reading, writing it should give him a chance to wrestle with his conscience and avoid true villainy by an objective retelling of those events, perhaps even a confessional. Otherwise, the most noteworthy place in history he will manage for himself is his role as Marcos' 29-year-old press secretary making the formal announcement of martial law way back in 1972. At least Tatad did not have the temerity to run anew for public office after the maximum two terms in the Senate and a disappointingly disgraceful performance during the impeachment trial.

Their colleague, (some say co-conspirator), Nikki Coseteng, on the other hand, did run for Congress in the third district of Quezon City after two terms in the Senate, only to lose in a spectacular election contest of programs and character, to the Harvard-trained economist, Maite Defensor. Defensor leads a pack of young, energetic new legislators into Congress, ready and raring to replace the tired old guard. All her friends and supporters are elated at Defensor's big win against the nationally-branded Senator Nikki, a Goliath who could not prevail, despite money and machinery aplenty. More than just spice, Defensor promises to bring substance to a Congress badly in need of new blood and new ideas. Defensor's victory would make Coseteng's loss, the country's double gain, as both houses of Congress benefit. If she and other progressive legislators can fulfill the bright promise of their self-evident talent and potential, much can be done to repair the damage to the legislature that the recent political crises have wrought.

Still fighting for, and not mathematically excluded from a place in the roster of 13 winning senators, is the old battle axe, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile. Unless a miracle of arithmetic happens, however, he may have to stand aside. For the ultimate political insider and the consummate powerbroker of Philippine politics, that may be hard to take. His gray eminence may not be quite resigned to a gray retirement. But he may have tried to pull off one coup d'état too many and the speeches he delivered at Edsa urging an attack on Malacañang were truly blood-curdling, as I listened to them in person. Although the public seems to have decided against sending him back to the Senate, I have a feeling we may not have seen or heard quite the last of Enrile, who will always epitomize for me, a huge part of Filipino politics of the late 20th century. If he doesn't make it, I shall actually miss him in the lineup of important characters for perpetual public scrutiny.

The newly elected senators who will be replacing them have a daunting task in trying to resuscitate the Senate as an institution and to restore the public's esteem of it. If the present results hold, four of these replacements will come from the House, all on the administration ticket, namely, Joker Arroyo, Manny Villar, Francis Pangilinan and Ralph Recto. Four are senate reelectionists who voted against Erap during the trial, namely, Juan Flavier, Jun Magsaysay, Frank Drilon and Serge Osmeña. Four more are oppositionists in Ping Lacson, Ed Angara, Gringo Honasan and Loi Estrada. Then there's Noli de Castro.

There are no saints in this crew. In the din of the coming victory parties are the solemn promises of the campaign drowned and forgotten and the knives of political grudge and envy resharpened. Power begins its inexorable sepsis on proclamation day.

The victors of our political contests are certainly more deserving of close scrutiny now than the losers. Unlike the losers, who can only demand our sufferance for their outraged protests against defeat-by-cheating, the winners can claim full ownership of our consent to be governed in victory by election. By suffrage, they promptly take over the reins of power. As the election campaign music stops, the hum of business-as-usual can already be heard all over the archipelago, at the local and the national government levels, as machineries of the reigning powers, old and new, are set in motion. Perhaps, they are already mining the public coffers.

Headlines 101

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

THE FIRST thing that usually catches the readers' eyes in a newspaper (whether broadsheet or tabloid) is the banner headline, or the large-size letters that run across the front page which gives the readers an idea of what the newspaper considers the most important news of the day.

Some tabloids have more imaginative ideas on attracting the readers' attention. They feature women in various forms of undress on the front page to entice the readers into buying a copy. And these come-ons have proven to be effective. A morning tabloid with a racy title owes its survival to photos that can make so-called moral terrorists squirm in their seats.

A journalism student, with e-mail address at dewey_ joseph @yahoo.com, took time to review the INQUIRER's past issues and gave a critique on the way it writes its headlines. He wrote, "I really cannot understand the 'all caps' headlines. Maybe once in a while it would be quite understandable, like perhaps once a year when the situation really called for it.

"But an 'ENRILE ARRESTED'? Your 'It's all over; Marcos flees!' was perfectly all right because it captured the excitement of the moment, and that headline was not in big bold letters. I do not want to think of the INQUIRER as a tabloid, but I cannot help but feel that you have lost a little of the calm and objectivity that are expected of the media.

"I am not sure if it was your style guide or some other paper's but I distinctly recall that headlines are NOT supposed to be in big letters unless they are terribly important. I would appreciate a little restraint. Leave the big bold letters to events that require them."

By way of background, the headline about Marcos fleeing the country came out on Feb. 26, 1986, the day after the dictator and his family hightailed it to Hawaii to escape the wrath of an angry mob. That was the culmination of the original version of People Power Revolution, or Edsa I as it is now popularly known.

Incidentally, the editor in chief of the INQUIRER then was Luis Beltran (bless his soul). He was reportedly so excited about seeing the end of the conjugal dictatorship that, not content with writing the headline, he broke newsroom tradition and prepared the accompanying news himself. It is rare in the newspaper industry that the highest-ranking editorial officer takes over a reporter's job.

Headline arrangement

The reader's letter gave me the opportunity to discuss at length with the present editor in chief the newspaper's policy on the preparation of headlines, in particular, those that appear on the front page. Here is basically her explanation on how this important piece of journalistic activity takes place.

All news reports or articles carry headlines, regardless of the section they are in. On the front page, the news that is considered the most important story of the day is given a banner headline.

Headlines give the readers a bird's eye view of the contents of the accompanying news or article. Depending on the length and importance of the story, the headline may consist of one or two lines (or decks as they are commonly known in the editorial room).

If two or three news reports are arranged alongside each other, the headlines are written differently, that is, the number of lines or font sizes vary. The reader may think the headlines form one continuous line if they are all one- or two-liners and of the same font size.

Sometimes, the INQUIRER uses a "runner"—that's the headline that appears at the top of the page, or above the name of the newspaper, to inform the reader that an equally important news report appears on the Second Front Page or elsewhere in the newspaper.

Under normal circumstances, the story subject of the runner should be placed on the front page. However, if the story is significant and space limitations prevent it from being featured on the front page, the next best thing to do is to put it in the inside pages but the reader is alerted beforehand about its existence so he can look it up upon seeing the kicker.

For example, in the May 28 issue of the INQUIRER, the principal story was the abduction of 20 people, including three Americans, by armed bandits at an upscale resort in Puerto Princesa City. So the banner headline read, "Bandits abduct 20 in Palawan resort."

On the same day, however, Congress was scheduled to convene in a special session to tackle the power reform bill. No doubt, this piece of legislation is equally important, as it will affect the production and sale of electric power to the country, and therefore merits front-page treatment.

With the front page filled with stories related to the abduction, the news about the special session had to go to the Second Front Page and the reader was informed about its existence through the runner, "Congress tackles power bill amid protests (Story on Page A2)."

Discretion

The May 2 issue of the INQUIRER carried the banner headline "ENRILE ARRESTED." It was written in big (all capital) bold black letters that spanned the front page.

There were two reasons why the editor in chief chose that banner headline. First, the arrest of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile for rebellion charges was the biggest story of the previous day. It is not every day that incumbent senators are arrested for the commission of a crime. And for rebellion, at that, which is considered one of the most serious offenses against national security.

If Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago or Gregorio Honasan were also arrested on the same day as Enrile, their names would have been included in the headline. Santiago and Honasan were smart enough to go into hiding after the bloody riot at Malacañang.

Second, by reducing the banner headline to a one-liner, sufficient space was made available on the front page to allow the publication of dramatic photos of the riot. That particular issue had four color photos that showed various scenes of the place of rampage of the pro-Erap rallyists.

A picture speaks a thousand words, as the saying goes. And so with those four photos, the readers got an idea of the extent of the damage to life and property caused by eight hours of uncontrolled (or manipulated?) rage by supporters of the ousted president.

The decision on what news reports should grace the front page and how the banner headline should be written is addressed to the sound discretion of the editor in chief. Although there are journalistic rules that apply in the preparation of headlines, experience and gut feeling influence to a great extent the making of that editorial decision.

As a matter of practice, the INQUIRER's banner headlines do not go beyond two lines. The space that the third line may occupy could be put to good use by the accompanying news report.

The editor in chief believes the banner headline of the May 2 issue is justified. It was important for the readers to know the latest development in the May 1 riot, as reflected in the headline, with the photos showing the events that led to the arrest of Enrile.

Before the pro-Erap supporters cry "foul" over the prominent treatment given to the rampage, it is noteworthy to mention that the side of the former president was not completely booted out of the front page.

On top of the front page was a runner that read "Erap in Laguna jail: 'Struggle has just begun' (Story on Page A2)." The Second Front Page carried in full Erap's thoughts about the bloody incident and his appeal for calm and sobriety by his followers and government law enforcers.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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LETTERS
INQUIRER

Questions on GMA's power ad

TO THE FULL-PAGE advertisement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (PDI, 5/30/01) seeking support for the new power bill, we seek the following clarifications:

1. The 5-percent rate rebate for residential consumers. Is this 5 percent of effective (or gross) power rate or 5 percent of the National Power Corp.'s basic rate? If it is the latter, the 5 percent could be wiped out by the cost adjustments (Forex, FPCA, PPA) and consumers would in effect pay a higher rate.

2. Rationalized electricity prices for industrial consumers. Is this the 27-percent reduction in their rate? Obviously, industrial/commercial customers will enjoy far bigger discounts on their effective rate, while households will in fact pay more. Moreover, household or residential power cost is the final cost to the consumer. Industrial/commercial power consumption is the cost of production and is a pass-on cost, *kaya mahal and bilihin na binabayaran pa rin ng* household consumers.

3. Estimated welfare benefits of P1,000 per household per year. Is this based on the Consumer Impact Assessment presented at the Asian Development Bank earlier this year? That presentation was inconclusive and the NGOs present in fact challenged the study and the findings. Curioser even is the basis of the impact assessment done by the ADB, when the bill which is supposed to impact on consumers is not in its final form up to now. What version was used for that impact assessment and what is the impact of today's final version on it?

Other matters not raised in the ad but requiring clarification are:

1. President Macapagal issued Administrative Order No. 10 creating a review committee to evaluate/renegotiate IPP contracts within six months. Why pass the bill before that review is completed? If the bill must be passed outright, what purpose will the review serve?

2. The President will veto the New Power Bill if it does not reduce rates. If she does not know what the bill will do, who does? Why go through the veto-posturing if she knows that power rate will go down? If she is not sure it will, why rush the bill now?

We believe electricity is vital to the economic development of our country. That is why we need those questions answered.—**RODEL OCAMPO, rodeloca@ hotmail. com**

How Failon ended a political dynasty

THE LATEST political sensation in Leyte which has caught the attention of political observers even as far as Metro Manila was the election victory of Ted Failon. He is the new champ in town. Failon will succeed Alfred Romualdez as congressman of the first district of Leyte, the same seat which used to be occupied by Imelda Romualdez-Marcos.

It's not often that a newcomer like Failon beats an incumbent. But what makes his victory a sensation is that, for the first time since martial law, somebody—and a newcomer at that—beat a Romualdez. Of course, Trinidad Apostol beat Alfred's brother, Carlos, in the second district, but the latter was earlier disqualified for lack of residence. Failon beat Alfred in a real electoral contest. Thus, his victory destroyed the dynasty which started way back in the '60s when Imelda Romualdez-Marcos became the first lady of the land and her brother Kokoy was elected governor of Leyte.

Many factors contributed to Failon's victory over Romualdez. First, Failon caught and fired the imagination of the youth who were apparently inspired by his meteoric rise to fame. We all knew him as Larry Etong, the broadcaster at the local radio station dyMM owned by the Romualdezes. As Ted Failon of "Hoy! Gising!" his fame spread fast in this part of the province. His return to Tacloban can be considered as the return of the native.

Another reason for Failon's political success is the expert handling of his publicity by his friends in the media. Being a mediaman himself, he also knew how to use the media to his fullest advantage.

Failon conducted a strenuous house-to-house campaign in almost all of the barangays in the first district, talking to the people in Waray.

But the most important factor, I think, is that Failon won the support of credible leaders throughout the district, including many traditional politicians who were unhappy with the Romualdez dynasty.—**AURELIO D. MENZON, Tacloban City**

Good riddance

I AM very bothered by the statements of Miriam Defensor-Santiago (PDI, 5/1/01) calling this country "suffocating" aside from being populated by "lower life forms." It is very unfortunate that these irresponsible statements would come from a former legislator and an individual who boasts of being "educated" in prestigious universities such as the University of the Philippines, Harvard, Oxford and Cambridge

If she is really "educated" as she claims to be, she should have at least the decency to shut her mouth because her statements only reflect her poor performance as a "public servant." She has been in the government for many years but she was not able to at least educate and alleviate the conditions of "lower life forms."

When I revisit UP, I intend to bring with me my grandparents so that they could at least "set foot" in the UP campus, and will not be belittled and ridiculed by Santiago.

They were not educated in UP or in any other prestigious school but they remain firm in their principles of justice, honesty and modesty. Principles that nowadays are rarely seen in the government. They live simply and my trust in them keeps growing as my trust in so-called "public servant" dissipates.

I would rather be one of these "lower life forms" who live a simple yet principled life, than be one of the "educated" individuals who easily turn their backs on principles and attach themselves to other low-lives who put them on pedestals.

If Santiago would mind her words to leave the Philippines, maybe this could be the greatest service she could give to this country. I just hope that she's no longer lying this time.—**JOSEF ARMENTA, asiong97ph@ yahoo. com**

Tourism here is one of the safest

I JUST want to assure Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon and all Filipinos that my fellow countrymen around the world genuinely believe that the Philippines is one of the safest places on earth. Except for a few areas, which I believe are experiencing temporary problems, the rest of the nation is blessed with friendship, caring, beauty and quiet joy.

Even in your bustling cities, the smiles and warm hospitality are abundantly found for all tourists and foreigners alike to see and experience. From the moment of our arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, the friendly and courteous customs and immigration officers were there, ready to help visitors and *balikbayans* for normal arrival procedures. At no time do tourists feel threatened or uncomfortable. The opposite is more like it, they feel truly welcome starting their journey to see the wonders of the Philippines.

No matter what political or ethnic differences there are in your island paradise, I have never considered these as a hindrance in visiting the Philippines. The unfortunate incident which occurred in Palawan could have happened anywhere else in the world. In fact, I venture to predict that tourism will grow even more rapidly when we all realize that in this ever-changing world we all need each other no matter how different we all seem.

I salute the Philippines and I know that with people like Gordon at the helm of the tourism industry, this country will remain one of the most popular tropical vacation spots in Asia. In fact, my family and I are on our way to experience another wonderful holiday in the Philippines. Need I say more?—**KEITH HAMILTON SNELL, Sydney, Australia, 68 Edward Street, Merewether 2291 NSW, Australia, E-mail: ambassador_ snell@ yahoo. co.uk**

Why the late PAF response?

I'M a resident of Puerto Princesa City, Palawan and would like to express my disappointment with the military's slow response to the kidnapping incident that took place in Dos Palmas Resort. Palawan is the home of an Air Force base but its members were not able to immediately dispatch an airplane or chopper to track down the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

A local radio station said that the Air Force base did not have enough supply of fuel. If I'm not mistaken, the main reason that there is an Air Force base here is because of Palawan's proximity to the contested Spratlys. I wonder how this air base would respond if one of the countries claiming the Spratlys would launch an attack?

I also feel very frustrated with the overall attitude of the government and the military toward the Abu Sayyaf. I understand that a massive military operation would cost a lot but still it's nothing compared to what we lose if the group is allowed to continue with its banditry and lawless acts without really being made to pay for it.- -**MARLON RESTON, fmc@pal-onl.com**

Science and religion

RELIGION may be a part in the brain, but the whole brain is what science is all about. It certainly works much better then religion. Science is the best tool we have, thus far, for understanding our own nature and the nature of the world we live in.

Science has two simple rules. First: there are no sacred truths. All assumptions must be critically examined, arguments from authority are worthless. Second: whatever is inconsistent with the facts must be discarded or revised. Indeed, science is always a self-correcting human enterprise.

It is often asked not by scientists but by religionists if science and religion can one day reconcile. Yes, it can! But religion must reconcile first with other religions. In the meantime, insofar as religion consists in a way of feeling, rather than a set of beliefs, science should leave religion alone. Why bother with an ancient institution that has miserably failed to straighten out the mess in this world, especially here in the Philippines, the only Christian country in Asia?—**POCH SUZARA, 8 Zipper St., San Lorenzo Village, Makati City**

Disregarded intelligence report?

THE ARMED Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police should be held accountable for the latest kidnapping spree of the Abu Sayyaf. Except for the negligence of the AFP and the PNP, the Palawan kidnapping could have been averted.

An intelligence report was already in the hands of the Army and the Police for several months now that the bandits would strike somewhere in Palawan. And the bandits did.

How could the Army, Navy, Air Force and the PNP let their guard down and ignore such a report? Wasn't the Abu Sayyaf kept under check by the military after the Sipadan kidnapping last year? How could the Abu Sayyaf make such a bold move without being detected?

How could a small group of bandits cause such an embarrassment to the government and the military? The Abu Sayyaf is again making a mockery of the law and those who are supposed to enforce it. Our government remains helpless as ever.

What will transpire in the next weeks and months are endless negotiations between the government and bandits. The military would prepare rescue alternatives that wouldn't free a hostage. Money will again be the key factor in the release of the hostages. The government does not have the capability or will to enforce its no-ransom policy. I'm afraid that in the end of this kidnapping nightmare, the government would simply give in to the demands of the bandits.—**DINDO SANTIAGO, Tandang Sora, Diliman, Quezon City**

Money offers glimpse into colorful HK past

FEATURE

Tamora Vidaillet

HONG KONG—Reach deep into your pockets, gaze at your money and catch a glimpse of Hong Kong's colorful past. Nearly four years after Britain handed the small but wealthy colony back to mainland China, old coins embossed with the head of Queen Elizabeth II are slowing growing harder to come by, just as many other remnants of colonial rule have become scarce.

Some 560 million Queen's head coins have been withdrawn from the market for smelting since Hong Kong launched a new series of coins bearing the five-petal bauhinia flower in 1993, according to the de facto central bank.

An estimated 800 million Queen's head coins remain in circulation, a Hong Kong Monetary Authority spokesperson told Reuters recently.

But they are disappearing fast.

"In around five to 10 years, there probably won't be any Queen's head coins left," manager of Commonwealth Stamp & Coin company Cheng Po Hung told Reuters.

"Collectors here are only really interested in Queen's head or bauhinia coins if they haven't gone into circulation or if they are of particular interest," he said in his shop in one of Hong Kong island's oldest districts.

The history of Hong Kong's money has closely reflected the territory's transformation from a barren haven for pirates and fishermen to one of Asia's most vibrant trading and financial centers.

From Hong Kong's colonization in 1841, the British attempted and failed to introduce the pound sterling as the sole official currency. Given the territory's wide trading influence as a gateway to China, money from Britain, China, India and as far away as South America all became legal tender.

Spanish and Mexican silver dollars were used for international trade.

It was not until 1937 that coins in general circulation were confined to those stamped "Hong Kong."

Banknotes, too, have represented Hong Kong's thriving and competitive free market past.

At various points in the 19th oentury as many as seven commercial banks issued notes in the territory.

Today, only three—the Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corp., Standard Chartered Bank and the Bank of China—issue paper money, but the notes are among the most colorful and exotic in the world, sporting motifs of Chinese mythical creatures, lions and flowers.

In a sign of more modern times, the Bank of China began issuing notes in 1994 prior to the return of the territory to Chinese rule in mid-1997.

By the end of 2000, HSBC banknotes accounted for 64.4 percent of all notes issued while the Bank of China accounted for 22.5 percent. Standard Chartered accounted for 13.1 percent.

The changing face of Hong Kong's money has long attracted collectors from abroad, with a premium placed on scarcity and condition. Banknotes or coins which have not been circulated or have proved particularly rare have at times fetched surprising sums.

Cheng said he kept his most valuable banknote, a HK$10 note dated 1901, in the bank as it was worth around HK$100,000 (US$12,820).

Five-cent coins dated 1964 could fetch as much as HK$1,000 even in poor condition as only around 10,000 were ever issued. Cheng said.

Standard Chartered notes issued between 1968 and 1975, identifiable by the serial number or the signature of the bank manager, can fetch as much as HK$5,000 as relatively few were issued.

For coin and banknote specialist Spink, it is even older Hong Kong coins that generally offer the best value.

"Few modern issues can appreciate as much as stocks and shares but Victorian ones in perfect condition are eagerly sought after and can go for very good prices," head of Foreign Coin Auctions Jeremy Cheek told Reuters from London.

Among the most expensive coins auctioned by Spink include an undated Victorian Silver Pattern Dollar, featuring the crowned shields of England, Scotland and Ireland radiating from the center, which fetched HK$720,000 in 1996.

One year later, Spink sold a virtually mint condition 1867 Silver Pattern Tael, featuring four Chinese characters within a beaded circle, for HK$667,000.

Spink, a member of the Christie's Group, said it plans to hold its next auction of local coins in Hong Kong in November. *Reuters*

Realities of Bukidnon politics

SOME notes on Bukidnon politics written by Belinda Olivares-Cunanan and Rocky Nazareno have painted the father-son tandem of Jose Zubiri, who ran for governor, and reelectionist Rep. Jose Miguel Zubiri in a very laudatory light, as if they were paragons of "new politics." Nothing could be farther from the truth.

We ask the INQUIRER, in the interest of fair journalism, to check on Bukidnon politics at ground level and see how much money, intimidation and vote manipulation were employed to get the Zubiris elected. We know the Zubiris have a formidable public relations machinery, especially at the national level, and it can twist reality for their own political aggrandizement. Now it is th opposition Puwersa ng Masa tha they accuse of the very things the are guilty of. It is very unfortuna to see how people are being de ceived by them.

The Zubiris can be expected t respond with self-righteous state ments about how they were the "un derdogs" in the recent political ex ercise, but we only ask that you paper visit Bukidnon to get a re sense of how the May 14 election were conducted instead of sole relying on press releases of th Zubiris' publicists.—**ROY S. OLIVAR, Purok 2, Malaybala City, Bukidnon**

Where to file election protests

CHARGES of fraud and cheating swept the country during the counting of votes cast in the last elections. What legal remedies do losing candidates who complain of massive electoral fraud have?

One remedy is to file an election protest before the proper forum within 10 days after the proclamation of the winner, otherwise the election protest could be summarily dismissed. Losing senatorial candidates should file their protests before the Senate Electoral Tribunal (SET), while losing congressional candidates should do so before the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal (HRET). On the other hand, losing local candidates for provincial and city positions (i.e., governors, vice governors, city mayors, city vice mayors and city councilors) can file election protests before the Commission on Elections (Comelec). In the case of municipal positions (i.e., municipal mayors, municipal vice mayors and municipal councilors), the protests have to be filed before the proper regional trial court (RTC).

However, Comelec Resolution No. 2812, promulgated on Oct. 17, 1995, vests in the SET and HRET priority and preference over the Comelec and the regional trial courts in the collection, custody and revision of ballots and other documents contained in the bal lot boxes which may be the sub ject of simultaneous protests. The order of preference is: (1) SE (2) HRET, (3) Comelec, and (RTC. This makes it possible fo delays to occur in the dispositio of election protests in the Comelec and the courts.—**EMMANUEL MAPILI, House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal, Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

The WORLD

Arafat orders total, immediate truce

JERUSALEM—Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat ordered his security services Saturday to implement a total and immediate ceasefire, after Israel gave him 24 hours to carry out his promise that he would do "whatever is necessary" to achieve a ceasefire.

Following Israeli threats of a retaliation to a bombing in Tel Aviv and phone conversations with world leaders, Arafat ordered his services in a written document to implement this ceasefire "in all sectors under the Palestinian Authority's control, even by force," a high-ranking Palestinian security official said on condition of anonymity.

Palestinian security said in a statement that contacts were under way with "the national and Islamic factions to obtain an immediate implementation of this decision."

The statement was referring to the Palestinian movements, including Arafat's Fatah, and to the radical organizations Hamas and Islamic Jihad. The two latter are responsible for the bulk of anti-Israeli attacks.

On Friday night, a suicide attack in Tel Aviv killed the bomber and 18 Israelis, in the deadliest anti-Israeli attack since 1997.

Following the bombing, a security cabinet meeting held Arafat responsible for the deterioration of the situation and said Israel will take "all necessary measures" to defend its citizens.

According to Israeli public radio, Israel's inner security cabinet also gave Arafat no more than 24 hours to prove he wants to work to calm the violent situation in the region, after the Palestinian leader pledged to do "whatever is necessary" to achieve a ceasefire.

Arafat condemned Friday's as-yet-unclaimed attack, which ripped through a line of Israeli teenagers waiting to enter a beachside night club, saying he was against any killing of civilians.

"We are ready to make the utmost effort to stop the bloodbath among our people and the Israeli people, and to do whatever is necessary for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire," Arafat told reporters.

According to the anonymous Palestinian official, "by ordering the ceasefire, Arafat met European, US and Arab requests."

The Palestinian news agency WAFA reported that the Palestinian leader spoke Saturday to US Secretary of State Colin Powell, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and Arab League Secretary General Amr Mussa.

According to a US official, Powell spoke on the phone to Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, to discuss the "need for an immediate and unconditional halt to the violence".

Powell, who cancelled a visit to an Organization of American States (OAS) meeting in Costa Rica to monitor the situation in the Middle East, "encouraged Arafat to take concrete steps to achieve this goal", the official said on condition of anonymity.

The announcement of the ceasefire order comes after continued Israeli pressure on Arafat Saturday.

Dan Meridor, the head of the Israeli parliament's foreign affairs and defense committee, urged the Palestinian leader not only to order a clear ceasefire, but also to take concrete measures for its application.

"The ball is in Arafat's court. The only way for him to avoid dangerous developments is to clearly order a ceasefire on his radio," Meridor said.

He made his comments in spite of Palestinian protest against "Israeli threats" and a declaration by Israeli Arab deputy Ahmed Tibi, who said that Arafat was already working for a ceasefire.

"He clearly asked for a ceasefire to be implemented and nobody should prevent it", Tibi said after a meeting with the Palestinian leader.

AFP

John XXIII's remains put on display

VATICAN CITY—As tens of thousands of faithful blew kisses or applauded, Pope John XXIII's body, in a new, crystal and bronze coffin, was wheeled through St. Peter's Square on Sunday in an usual viewing that paid tribute to one of the most beloved pontiffs in modern times.

When the body, dressed in a white lace overtunic, red velvet cape and red hat trimmed with ermine, reached the steps of the basilica, the current pontiff, John Paul II came out into the square in a solemn procession as the start of Mass celebrated at an altar on the steps.

"We have the joy to host, near the altar, the venerated remains of Blessed John XXIII," John Paul II said.

After the ceremony, the body will be brought into the basilica and put on display for hours for the public. Then, during the night, the coffin will be installed in a new resting place more accessible for John XXIII's many admirers—a space under an altar near the center of the basilica.

John XXIII was pope from 1958 to 1963. His pontificate sparked widespread changes to the church, including the use of local languages instead of Latin for Mass, and he was widely beloved, especially by fellow Italians, for his down-to-earth ways, good humor and his efforts to improve relations with other faiths.

The special attention for John XXIII is an indication of the Vatican's enthusiasm for the pontiff's eventual sainthood. John Paul beatified John XXIII in September in the last formal step before possible sainthood.

AP

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MECHANICS

1. Every purchase of Eight O'Clock Orange Drink Mix (Original flavor, Orange-Mango, Orange-Pineapple, Litro packs) entitles the consumer to join the raffle
2. The following packs and combinations are considered as one raffle entry:
   - *One (1) 1.5 kg pack*
   - *One (1) 1 kg pack*
   - *One (1) 500 g pack*
   - *Three (3) 45 g Litro packs*
   - *One (1) 1.25 kg pack*
   - *One (1) 750 g pack*
   - *Two (2) 250 g pack*
   - *Ten (10) 22 g Single Serve packs.*
3. The participant should write his/her name, complete address, contact numbers and signature with the name of the store where he purchased Eight O'clock in a piece of paper and enclose it in a white long letter envelope together with any of the above proof of purchase combinations, and drop it in drop boxes located in supermarkets and local ABS-CBN stations or mail them to

"Revo Revo sa Ocho-Ocho"
Sugarland Beverage Corporation
c/o La Tondena Distillers Inc.
453 Carlos Palanca St., Quiapo, Manila

4. There will only be one (1) draw to be held in ABS-CBN's MTB variety show. The raffle draw will be on August 8, 2001.
5. The entries will be separated according to area, as follows: GMA, LUZON, VISAYAS, MINDANAO.
6. All entries will be drawn in the presence of a DOH-BFAD representative.
7. Shall any conflict arise from the drawing of entries, the decision of the Sugarland and/or Agency representative will be deemed final subject to the concurrence from the DOH-BFAD representative.
8. For the grand prize, there will be four (4) winners for the Toyota Revo, each coming from the different areas. The store where he purchased the product will receive P10,000.00.
9. The consolation prize winners will also be drawn according to area.
10. The consolation prizes are as follows:
    - *Two (2) winners of P100,000.00 in GMA*
    - *Two (2) winners of P 100,000.00 in Luzon*
    - *Two (2) winners of P 100,000.00 in Visayas*
    - *Two (2) winners of P 100,000.00 in Mindanao*
11. The grand draw and corresponding cut-off date is as follows:
    DRAW DATE : AUGUST 8, 2001 / CUT OFF DATE : JULY 30, 2001
12. Winner's will be announced over ABS-CBN'S MTB variety show and will also be published in newspapers and notified by registered mail as to where and when they can claim their prizes
13. The winner should bring 2 valid IDs with picture and the letter/telegram from Sugarland when claiming their prizes
14. The winner will be responsible for the registration and insurance of the vehicle and the shipping of his/her prize if needed.
15. A winner can only win once. Should his/her name be drawn more than once, he gets the prize of higher value. Another name will be drawn for the other prize.
16. Prizes are not convertible to cash and are not transferrable.
17. All prizes are subject to tax & should be shouldered by the winner
18. Winners will be required to be photographed for advertising and publicity purposes.
19. Prizes not claimed after ninety (90) days from receipt of notice will be forfeited upon prior approval from DOH-BFAD.
20. Employees of Sugarland Beverage Corporation, La Tondena Distillers and San Miguel Corporation, its Distributors, advertising and promo agencies, including their relatives up to the second degree of affinity and consanguinity are disqualified from joining the promo
    Deadline for submission of entries is July 30, 2001

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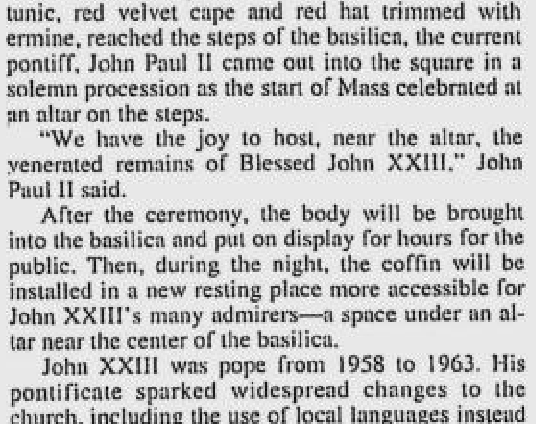

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Nepal in shock over slays

KATHMANDU—Nepal was struggling Sunday to come to terms with the dramatic gunning down of almost the entire royal family, while the kingdom's new regent sought to pass off the massacre as a tragic "accident" and appealed for public unity.

Sanitized official accounts of the shocking events which took place Friday night at the royal palace in Kathmandu have done little to ease the confusion and anger of the Nepalese people over the violent death of the highly revered King Birendra and seven core members of the royal family.

The most widely-believed version of what happened—partially confirmed in comments later retracted by Home Minister Ram Chandra Paudel—has all the elements of a Greek tragedy.

Official and palace sources said the king's eldest son and heir to the throne, Crown Prince Dipendra, gunned down his parents, brother, sister and four other relatives with a semi-automatic weapon before shooting himself.

His actions were believed to have been triggered by a bitter row during a weekly family dinner over his parents' refusal to sanction his choice of bride, and threats that he would be passed over in the line of succession if he did not bow to their wishes.

Despite his alleged role in the killings and the fact that he is reportedly on life support in a military hospital, the crown prince was declared the new king on Saturday.

His uncle, Prince Gyanendra, was appointed regent in his absence.

The tragedy has rocked the Himalayan kingdom, raising concerns about future political instability and even questions about the future of the constitutional monarchy.

The confusion felt by many as they try to digest the reports of the mass murders by the crown prince, has been tempered with anger at the lack of official transparency over the events.

The new regent, Prince Gyanendra, broadcast a message to the people over state-run radio on Sunday, in which he said the incident "took place after an automatic weapon suddenly exploded," injuring members of the royal family.

"The injured were taken to army hospital following the accident," he said, adding that eight of the royals had succumbed to their wounds despite the best efforts of the medical staff.

The regent wished the new king a "speedy recovery" in hospital and called for public unity at a time of national sorrow.

"I believe I will receive full support and cooperation from the Nepalese people," he said.

The regent, who is seen as a staunch monarchist opposed to the introduction of parliamentary democracy in 1990, is not a particularly popular figure in Nepal, and some greeted his statement with derision.

"It's just absurd," snorted one secondary school teacher. "Are we really meant to believe that a semi-automatic gun accidentally went off repeatedly, spinning around a dinner table until the royal family had been wiped out?"

Some newspapers on Sunday laced their expressions of grief over the royal killings with criticism of the authorities.

The national daily Nepal Samacharpatra complained that the people had been forced to wait 16 hours before even being told of the "gruesome massacre" in the palace.

"People still have not got answers to the mysterious, abnormal and terrible haphazard shootings, which killed Nepal's monarch and his family members," the newspaper said.

Following the state funeral Saturday of the king and queen and three other royals, Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala appealed for calm and pledged that the full facts would be made public in due course. *AFP*

SMOKE rises during the cremation of Nepal's King Berenda in Kathmandu, June 2 as tens of thousands of emotional mourners thronged the narrow streets of the capital. REUTERS

Crown prince's love flees Nepal for India

NEW DELHI—The woman allegedly at the heart of the bizarre murders of the king and queen of Nepal has influential Indian connections and may have fled Kathmandu for New Delhi, reports said Sunday.

There are differing official statements about the killings Friday but the most prevalent version of events is that Crown Prince Dipendra allegedly gunned down his parents and other relatives because they objected to his plans to marry Devyani Rana, the woman he had fallen in love with.

The Hindustan Times reported that Rana left grief-stricken Kathmandu for safety reasons on Saturday afternoon onboard a flight to New Delhi.

Her uncle is Madhav Rao Scindia, leader of India's main opposition Congress party, and her aunt, Vasundra Raje Scindia, is a junior minister in Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's cabinet, the Indian Express Sunday reported.

Her mother is Usha Raje Scindia, a member of a royal family from the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh.

Her father, former Nepal foreign and finance minister in Pashupati Rana, is descended from the Rana clan, the once powerful nobility, which established a line of hereditary prime ministers in Nepal.

Members of Nepal's royal Shah dynasty, including King Birendra and his two brothers, usually choose a spouse from the Rana line to ensure political peace in Nepal.

According to this tradition, Dipendra, 29, and Devyani Rana, in her 20s, were a perfect match and made no secret of their relationship. They were often seen enjoying a romantic dinner at a pizza restaurant near the royal palace in Kathmandu.

Rana was reported to have initially been reluctant to marry the crown prince, although she later fell in love with him and agreed to the wedding.

But her Indian connections made her a less suitable candidate for marriage, according to the Express.

"In Nepal, anti-India sentiment has often set the kingdom on fire and the last thing the royal family needed was a future queen with Indian blood in her veins," it reported.

Dipendra is believed to have told his parents that he was determined to marry the woman he loved, but they threatened he would be never be king if he did so. This apparently led to Friday night's shooting.

Quoting Nepalese palace sources, the report said Queen Aishwarya was determined that her son marry a girl from the Gorakh Rana family—into which her daughter Princess Shruti was married.

Rana was educated at an exclusive Indian boarding school and graduated in economics from a Delhi college. *AFP*

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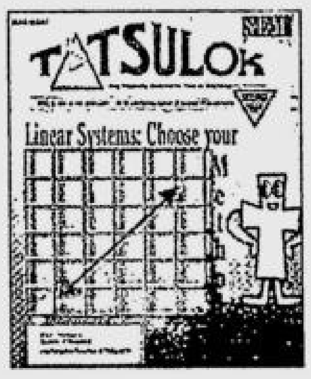

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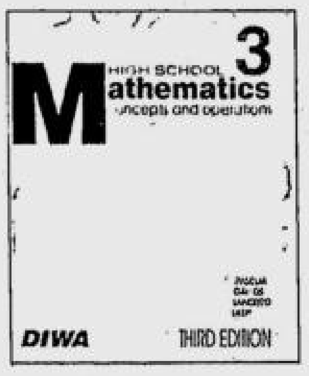

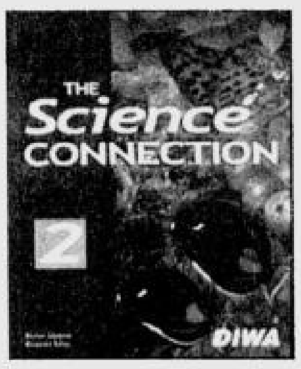

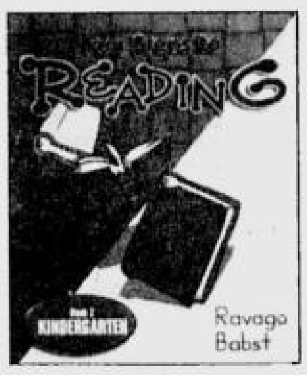

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Police defy Wahid's relief of commander

JAKARTA—Indonesia's political crisis deepened Sunday as police rejected President Abdurrahman Wahid's de facto dismissal of their commander, Gen. Suroyo Bimantoro.

Wahid, who is fighting possible impeachment, relieved Bimantoro of his duties Saturday and handed them over to newly appointed deputy police chief, Insp. Gen. Chaeruddin Ismail.

But Jakarta Police Chief Insp. Gen. Sofyan Jacoeb on Sunday read out a statement signed so far by 102 police generals that rejected moves to politicize the police.

"Polri (the national police) is a just protector of the people and Polri places itself as a tool of the state and not of power," Jacoeb said, reading out a six-point statement to journalists at police headquarters.

He said that in the democratic civilian society aimed for in the era of reform, the police demanded to be an independent and professional institution free of any political ties.

"Based on an evaluation of the situation and conditions and on the results of deep analysis, the national police chief and his top ranks are taking a firm stand to reject political intervention on the Polri institution," he said.

Bimantoro said Sunday he remained in his post.

Speaking after presiding at a ceremony to appoint top police officers to new posts, Bimantoro said that he had yet to receive a copy of the decree "giving Chaeruddin the day-to-day duties and powers of the national police chief."

The pledge of allegiance to Bimantoro by the senior officers came despite Wahid's warning that officers refusing to accept his decision could face charges of insubordination.

The increasingly isolated president acted against Bimantoro on Friday, after the national assembly fixed Aug. 1 for an impeachment hearing against him. He sacked his security minister and attorney general on the same day.

The moves were widely seen as part of Wahid's battle to avoid impeachment.

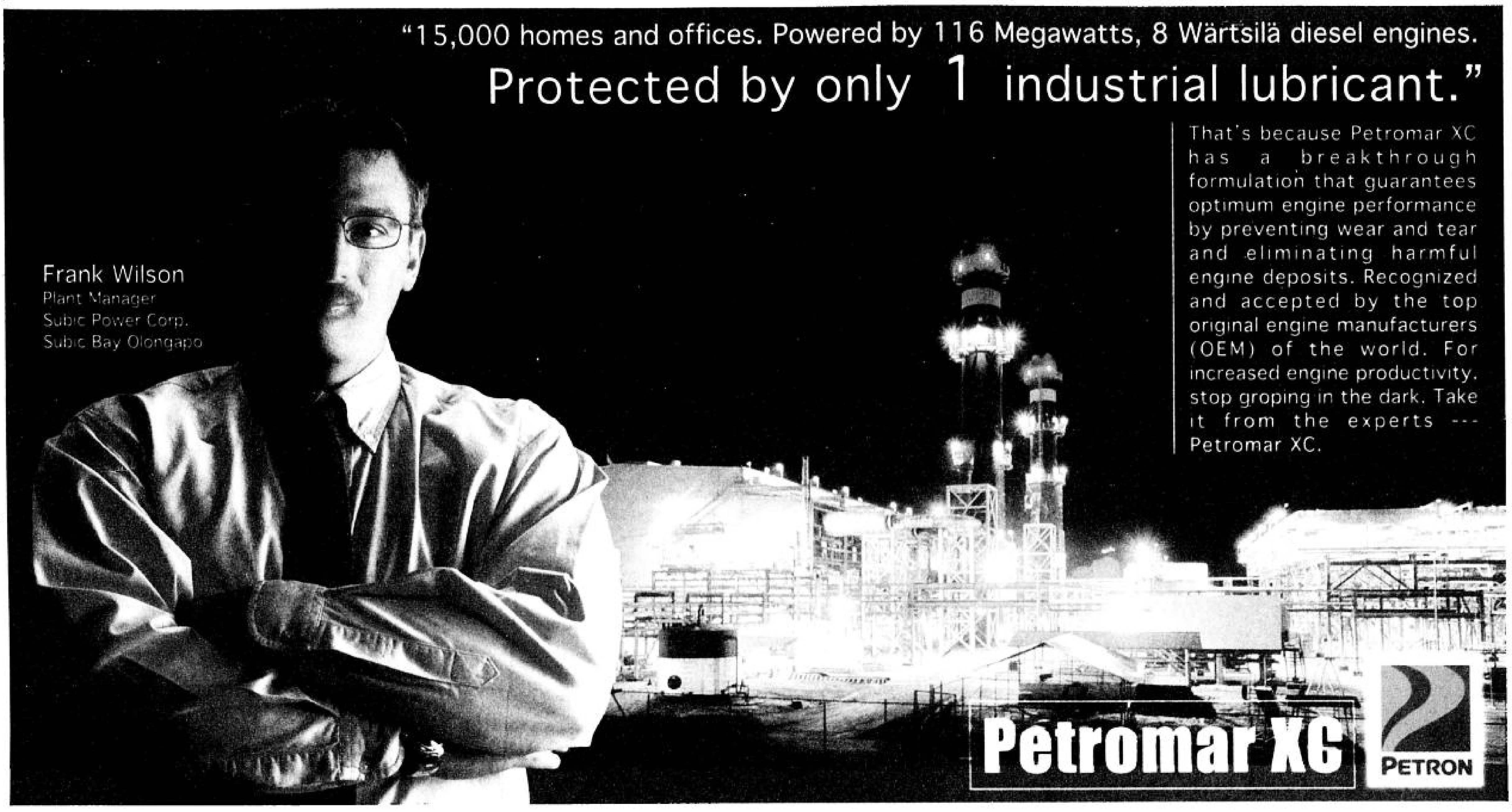
Bimantoro said he was sacked because his men opened fire to halt a rampage by the president's supporters demonstrating in East Java, Wahid's stronghold, against parliament's decision to start impeachment proceedings.

Bimantoro was due to meet political leaders from the lower house of parliament Sunday, the head of the Golkar Party in the People's Representative Council (DPR), Syamsul Muarif said.

By law, the president can only replace a national police chief with the approval of the DPR.

Analysts said Sunday that opposition over Wahid's move to relieve Bimantoro of his duties was crystallizing within the top ranks of the police.

"There are clear signs of an opposition, but this can also be expected because what Gus Dur (Wahid's nickname) did was in reality not backed by clear arguments and reasoning," said Syamsuddin Harris, a political scientist at the state Indonesian Institute of Sciences. *AFP*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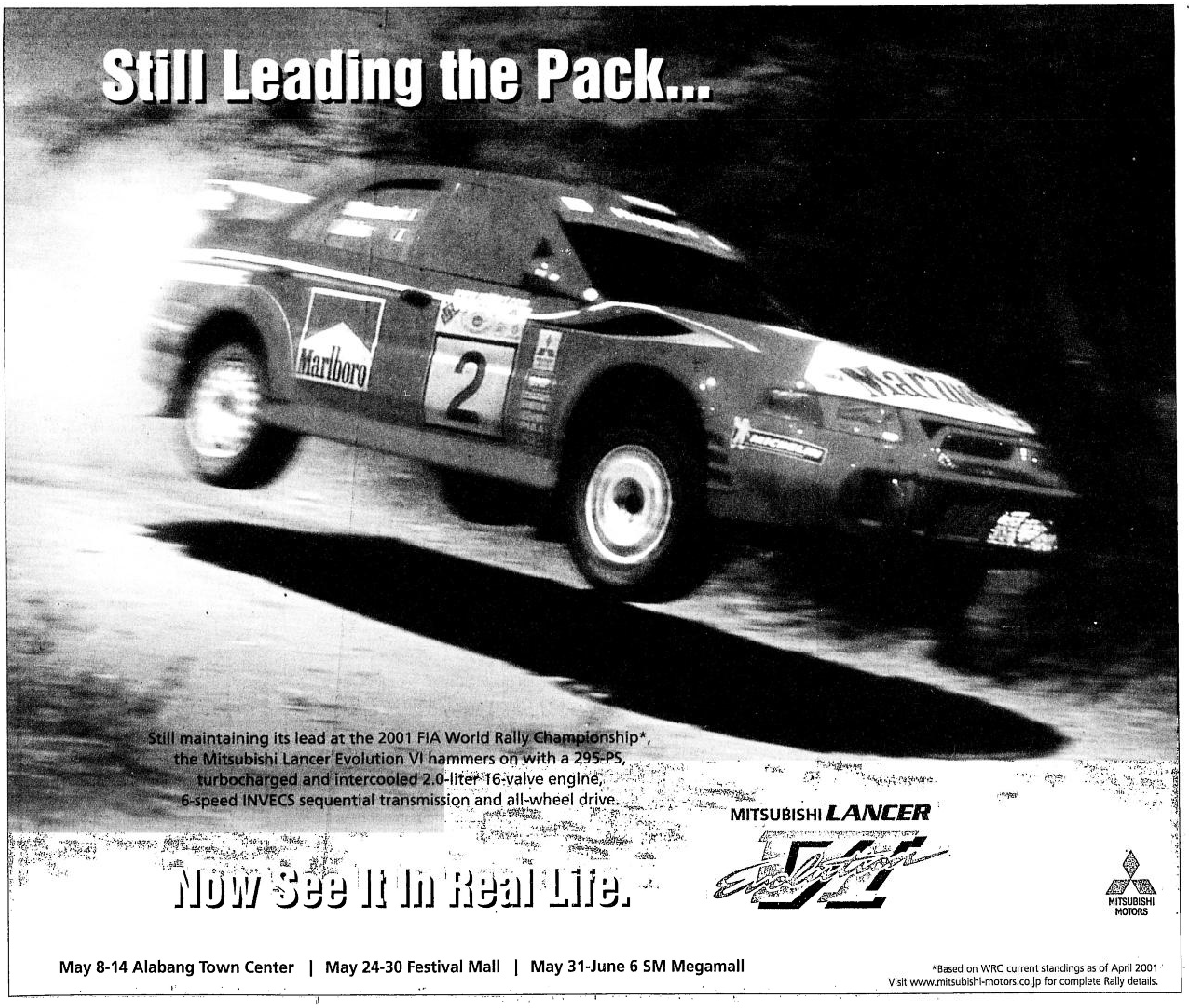
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PROTEST AGAINST UN

Iraq to stop exporting oil

BAGHDAD—Iraq said on Saturday it would halt oil exports from Monday in protest against a United Nations Security Council resolution extending the UN's oil-for-food program for 30 days instead of the usual six months.

"Iraq will halt exports of crude oil from ports on the Arab Gulf and the Mediterranean as of 8 a.m. local time (0400 GMT) until further notice," the state Iraqi news agency quoted an official source at the nation's oil ministry as saying.

"Iraq will stop oil exports under the memorandum of understanding because the Council has violated the spirit and the texts of the memorandum," the ministry said.

Turkey, one of the two export outlets allowed under oil-for-food, said Iraq had stopped pumping crude via pipeline to the southern Turkish port of Ceyhan.

"The oil flow was suspended from this morning," said a Turkish official.

Iraq is angry at Friday's Security Council vote that extended the oil-for-food program for a stop gap period of one month to allow time to consider a proposal by Britain and the United States for a revamp of decade-old sanctions against Baghdad.

The 30 day-period is intended for more negotiations on the US-British plan that would lift restrictions on civilian goods imported by Iraq while tightening controls on military-related supplies and oil smuggling.

Sanctions have been in place since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990 and oil-for-food has provided limited relief for civilians since the program began in December 1996.

Iraq is worried that a crackdown on oil smuggled through neighboring countries Turkey, Jordan and Syria will stem cash generated direct to the government of President Saddam Hussein.

Revenues from the humanitarian exchange are kept in a UN escrow account.

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest exporter, pledged it would step in with fellow Opec members to fill any oil shortage resulting from the Iraqi stoppage.

"What concerns us is the stability of the market. This is not the kingdom's position, but Opec's position, which is to fill any shortage in the oil market," Saudi Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi told reporters in Riyadh.

But it remains unclear whether Naimi and other Opec oil ministers, who meet in Vienna next week for scheduled talks on production quotas, will move immediately to compensate for the Iraqi outage.

"If the market calls for it we will increase but right now we don't need to raise production tomorrow," Nigeria's Opec representative Rilwanu Lukman said.

"It depends how long it goes on for and the impact on the market," said Lukman, Nigeria's presidential energy advisor, added.

Opec had widely been expected at its June 5-6 gathering to maintain supplies to keep prices in its $22-$28 a barrel target range for a basket of its crudes. The group cut output by 2.5 million barrels daily earlier this year.

The basket was valued at $26.56 on Thursday and ministers may prefer to wait for prices to rise above $28 before triggering extra output under a prearranged agreement. Iraq is an Opec member but has no production quota.

Ministers will be wary about increasing supply too quickly because Baghdad has suspended oil sales in the past and resumed exports within days or weeks. *Reuters*

Indians think Musharraf cannot be trusted

NEW DELHI—Most Indians are skeptical about whether Pakistan's military ruler Pervez Musharraf can be trusted and if he is seriously committed to peace, according to an opinion poll published in the Hindustan Times Sunday.

The poll revealed that 54 percent of Indians support Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's recent initiatives on Kashmir, including the scrapping of the suspension of combat operations against Islamic militants in the Himalayan region and the invitation to Musharraf to visit India.

However, 55 percent of the respondents believed that Musharraf was not genuinely interested in promoting peace and doubted if he could be trusted.

About 53 percent of those polled were also doubtful if any agreements Musharraf reached with Vajpayee during his forthcoming trip would be honored by a democratically elected government in Pakistan, as and when it came to power.

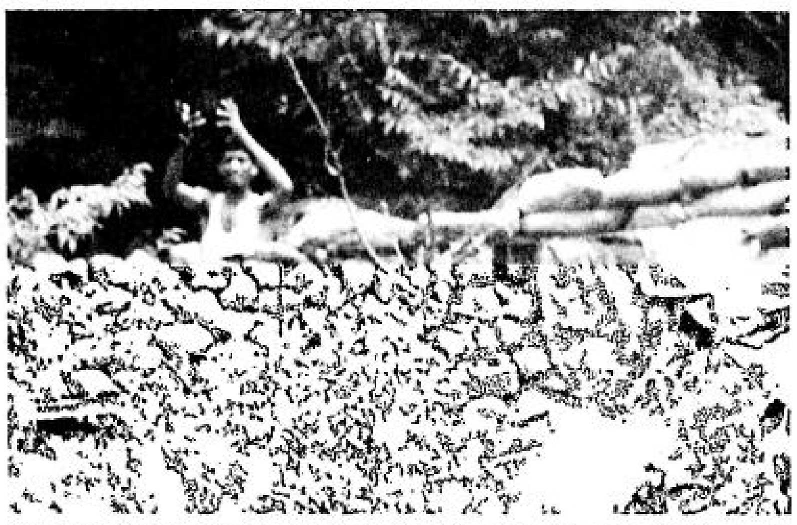
"It doesn't help either that Indians, by a solid 60 percent, believe that the revival of talks is a consequence of international pressure though there is scant evidence that this is the case," the Hindustan Times said.

"This lack of belief that the peace effort is home grown will make the business of dealmaking (between Vajpayee and Musharraf) and concession-sharing all the more difficult," the paper said.

Bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan had been frozen for more than two years, following a conflict in Kashmir's Kargil region in May 1999, which killed around 1,000 combatants from both sides.

The poll covered some 800 respondents in the cities of New Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Calcutta.

A majority of 64 percent agreed with the Vajpayee government's decision to keep Kashmir's main political separatist alliance, the All Party Hurriyat (Freedom) Conference, out of peace talks between India and Pakistan. *AFP*



AN INDIAN soldier waves to visitors at a military bunker on the Pakistan side of the Line of Control in Cahkothi May 28. Seven months ago such a gesture would have been fatal, a trigger for artillery exchanges. Now an uncertain truce holds between nuclear neighbors India and Pakistan. REUTERS

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, June 4, 2001
9th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Tb 1:1, 3; 2:1-8
Gospel: Mk 12:1-12

Using parables, Jesus went on to say, "A man planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a hole for the wine press and built a watch tower. Then he leased the vineyard to tenants and went abroad.

In due time he sent a servant to receive from the tenants his share of the fruit. But they seized the servant, struck him and sent him back empty-handed. Again the man sent another servant. They also struck him on the head and treated him shamefully. He sent another and they killed him. In the same way they treated many others; some they struck and others they killed. One was still left, his beloved son. And so, last of all, he sent him to the tenants, for he said: 'They will respect my son.'

But those tenants said to one another: 'This is the one who is to inherit the vineyard. Let's kill him and the property will be ours.' So they seized him and killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. Now, what will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others."

And Jesus added, "Have you not read this text of the Scriptures: *The stone which the builders rejected has become the keystone. This was the Lord's doing; and we marvel at it.*

They wanted to arrest him for they realized that Jesus meant this parable for them, but they were afraid of the crowd. So they left him and went away.

Commentary

Why did the master go away? Perhaps this is where the key to the parable lies. There is only one answer to it: he trusted the honesty of his tenants. It is interesting to note how, even in this parable which Jesus uses in order to denounce the unfaithfulness of those to whom he had given his promise, the trust that God bestows on all men and women clearly appears. It is a kind of trust that transcends the imaginable. He would send his Son after the tenants had killed the master's messengers. Not even his death will make him deprive us of his trust. In Jesus' resurrection, he is gifting us with life anew. Only God can be so generous!

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Perfection of appeal is jurisdictional—It is the well-established rule that the perfection of an appeal in the manner and within the period prescribed by law is not only mandatory but jurisdictional and the failure to perfect the appeal has the effect of rendering the judgment final and executory. As such, execution shall issue as a matter of right to the winning party. Rule 39, Section 1 of the 1997 Rules on Civil Procedure explicitly provides that "Execution shall issue as a matter of right, on motion, upon a judgment or order that disposes of the action or proceeding, upon the expiration of the period to appeal therefrom if no appeal has been duly perfected." Pursuant to this rule, it was proper for the Hearing Officer to have granted the respondents' motion for a writ of execution after the petitioners failed to perfect their appeal. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Kapunan, First Division, Sy v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 136233, November 23, 2000]

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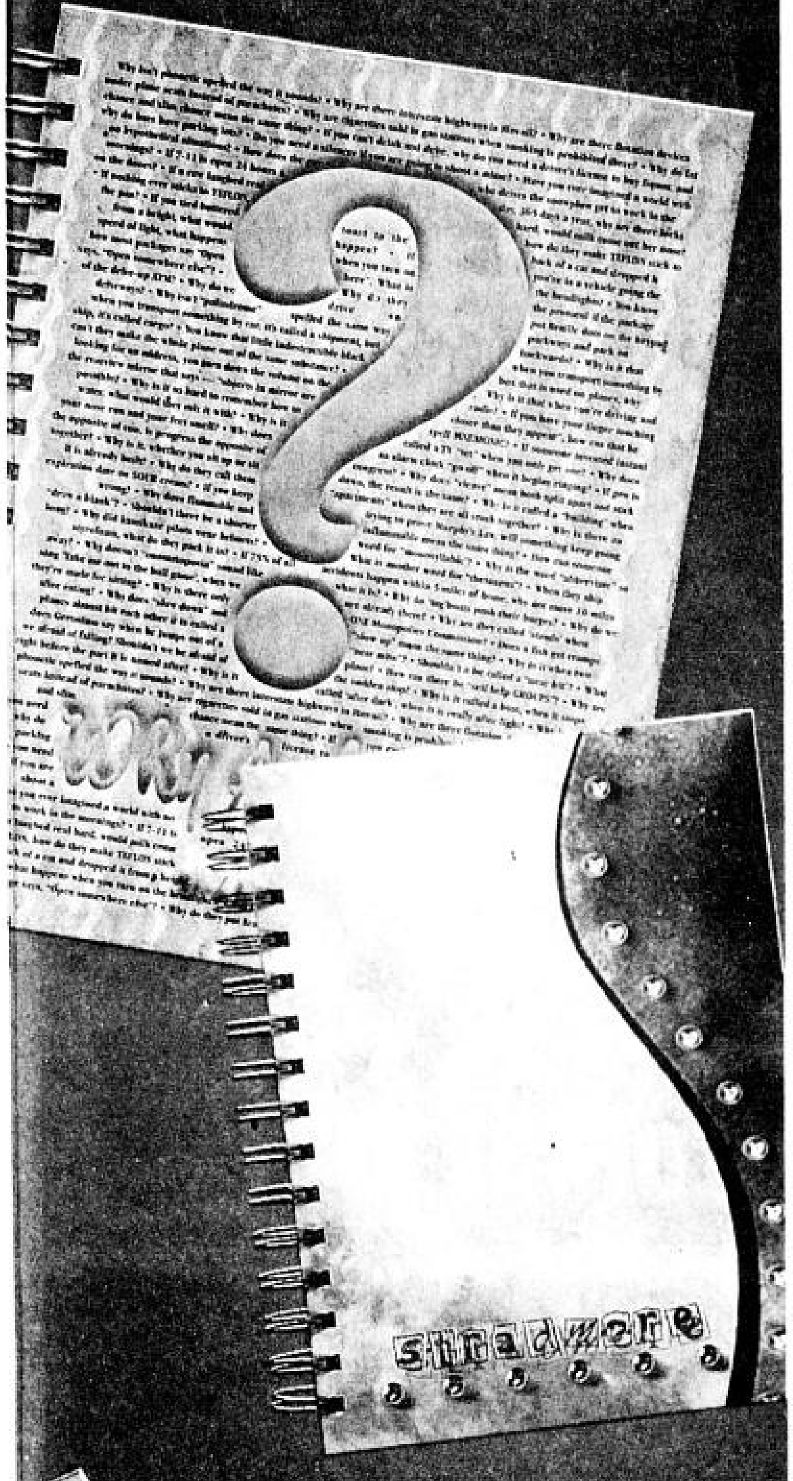

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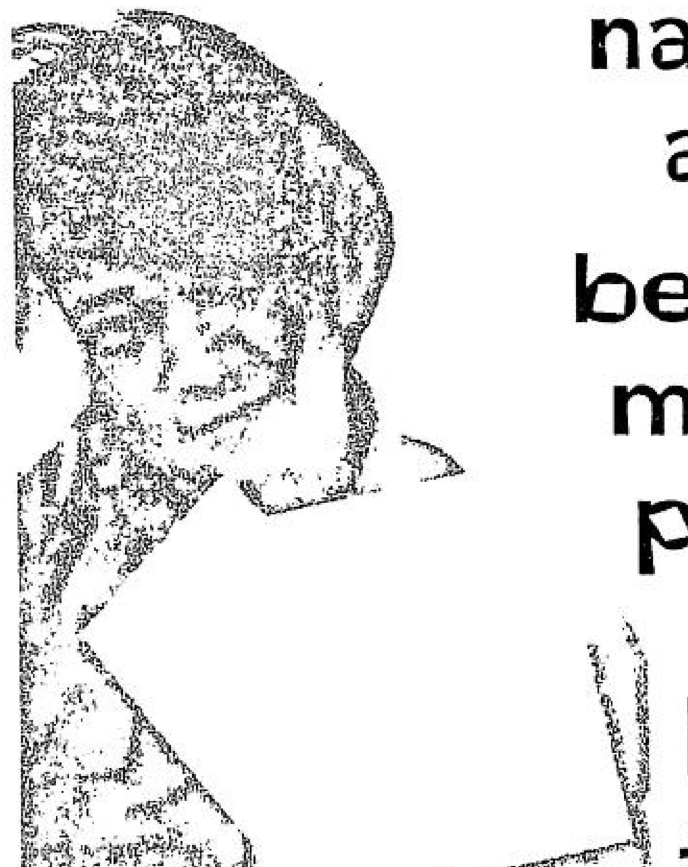

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15M Africans killed by AIDS

JOHANNESBURG—AIDS has killed some 15 million people in Africa over the past 20 years, and more than 25 million Africans are HIV-positive, according to the UN agency UNAIDS.

In Botswana, more than a third of all adults are infected; in the other worst-hit countries, it is one in four adults, or one in five.

But those figures come from official calculations, and South African President Thabo Mbeki warned when he opened an international AIDS Conference in the east coast city of Durban last year that if African nations were able to gather accurate statistics "our morbidity and mortality figures would tell a story that would truly be too frightening to contemplate."

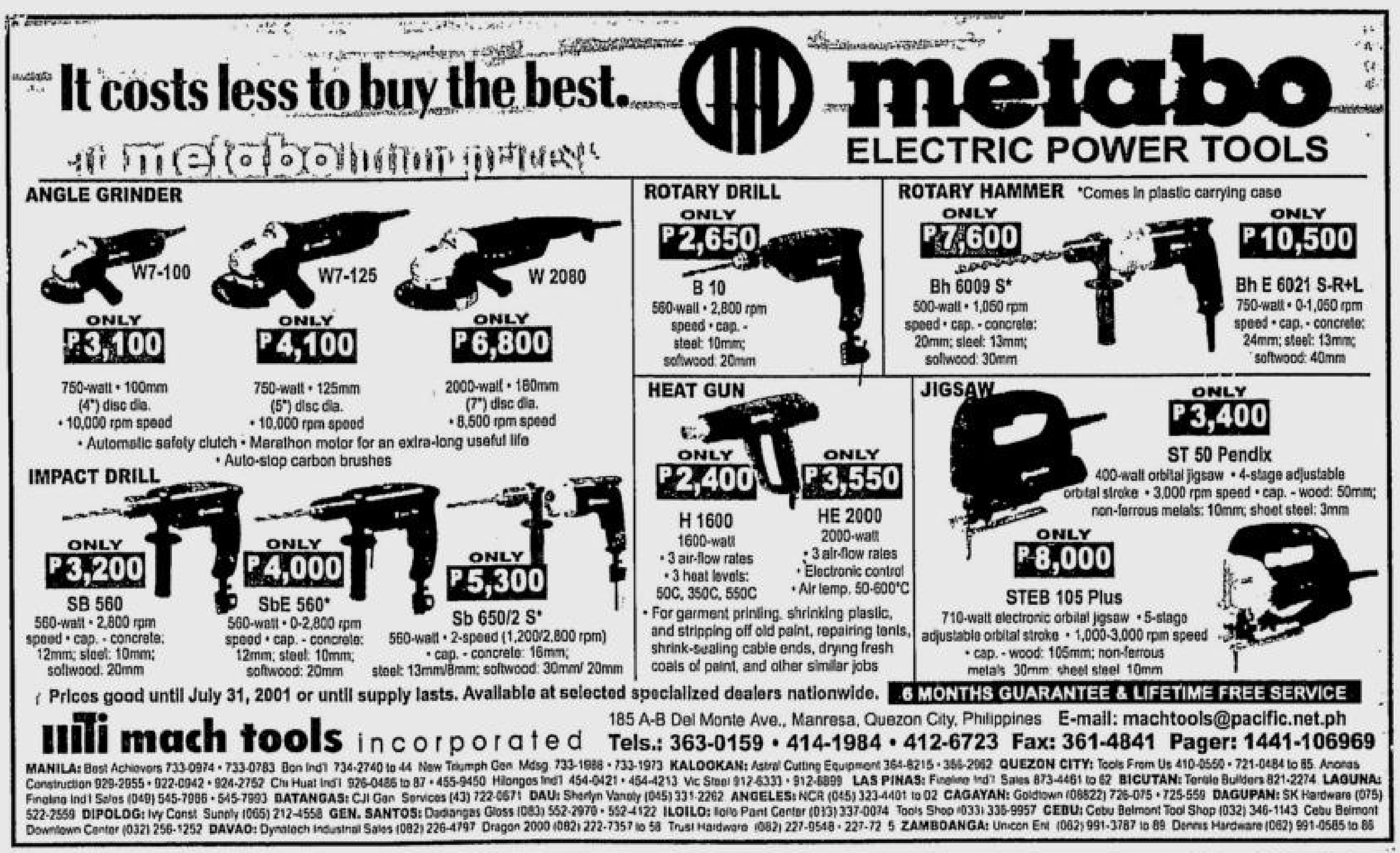
Up to 95 percent of people infected with the HIV virus in developing countries probably do not know they are carriers, UNAIDS executive director Peter Piot said last week.

"Where we will be in over 20 years depends entirely on how we respond to the epidemic today," he said.

Measures to combat the pandemic are finally intensifying in Africa as governments and organizations work to overcome taboos, myths, and the stigma which means that AIDS is often hidden.

The UNAIDS figures show that despite the high incidence of AIDS south of the Sahara Desert, the rate is fewer than one in 100 in Muslim north Africa.

The African sufferers—70 percent of the global total—are dying at such a rate—in the absence of expensive drug cocktails which have reduced AIDS to a chronic disease in the west—that cemeteries are filling up. In South Africa, officials are mulling the possibility of burying bodies vertically. *AFP*



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5 Idaho kids leave home, end impasse

GARFIELD BAY, Idaho—Five children relented in their five-day impasse with authorities, leaving their isolated home after negotiators promised to help the family stay together.

Bonner County Sheriff Phil Jarvis said Saturday night the children will remain together "if I have anything to say about it."

Sheriff's deputies had vowed to wait for as long as necessary to avoid a violent confrontation with the children, who were believed to be armed and suspicious of authorities.

Authorities have been trying since Tuesday to take the children, and they agreed to leave after negotiators promised to do whatever they could to keep the family together, Sheriff Phil Jarvis said.

The children had been speaking to three negotiators most of the day on Saturday, Rahn said. One was identified as their older sister Erina, 19, who left the house after an earlier falling-out with her parents.

The children and a 15-year-old brother who surrendered to authorities Thursday withdrew to the house when their mother, JoAnn McGuckin, was arrested for child neglect Tuesday. Their father died May 12.

After the mother's arrest, sheriff's deputies returned to the home about 16 km south of here to take the children into protective custody. But they withdrew after 15-year-old Benjamin McGuckin yelled "Get the guns!" and the children unleashed more than two dozen dogs.

The family became increasingly reclusive as financial hardships increased after father Michael McGuckin was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. His death was attributed to dehydration and malnutrition, complicated by his illness. *AP*

Press freedom still at risk, journalists say

HONG KONG—Efforts to promote freedom of the press are being countered in many parts of the world by terrorism, government intimidation and other threats to independent news gathering, journalists told an industry gathering here Sunday.

From the Basque region of Spain to the Balkans, in some parts of Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and Asia, journalists work under the threat of assassination, imprisonment, harassment and intimidation, editors of major newspapers told members of the World Association of Newspapers.

Angel Arnedo Gil, editor of the newspaper El Correo of Bilbao, Spain, cited the assassination on May 4, 2000, of Jose Luis Lopez de la Calle of the newspaper El Mundo, and numerous attempts on other journalists' lives, as evidence of the dangers of publishing in the Basque region of Spain.

Television and radio broadcast equipment has been bombed and newspaper distribution vans destroyed in the campaign to "terrify the consumers of certain newspapers," Gil said.

"Many more names are listed inside the address book of the terrorists," he said.

Authorities have blamed the armed Basque separatist group ETA, which has killed more than 800 people since 1968, for the attacks in the scenic, affluent region of northern Spain.

In Zimbabwe, the printing press of a major independent newspaper, the Daily News, was bombed in January. The editor-in-chief, Geoffrey Nyarota, said he received death threats and that a bomb exploded in the shop beneath his office.

In Pakistan, journalists who have worked under frequently hostile circumstances for much of the past four decades now face new threats from militant religious movements, said Najam Sethi, editor of the independent newspaper The Friday Times.

"Some of us are the recipients of daily threats and abuse by such elements," Sethi said.

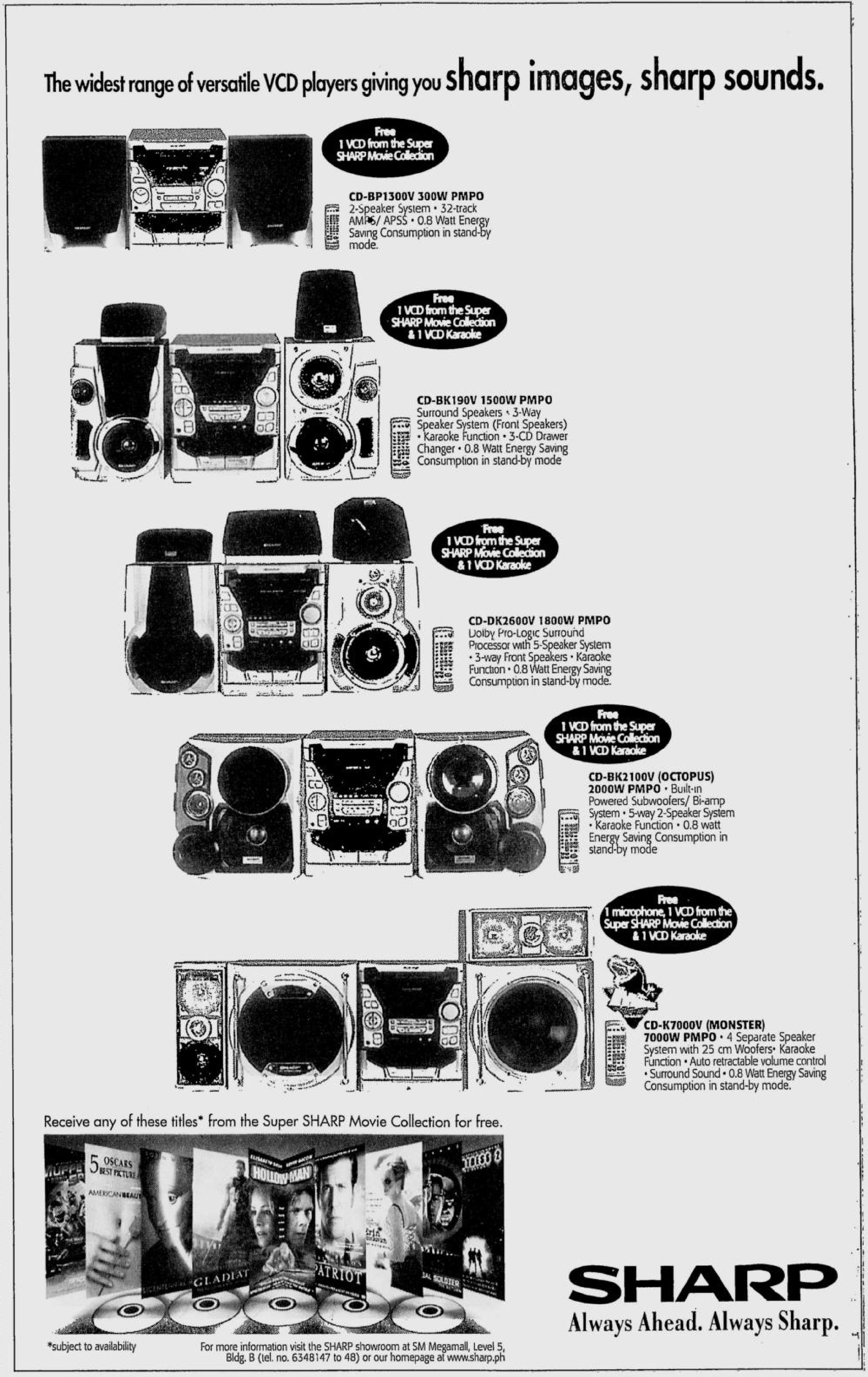
Armando Neira, editor of the Semana magazine, cited as "simple things of the trade" the need for journalists in Colombia to take precautions such as not attaching their bylines to articles, using armored cars and bodyguards, periodically leaving the country and "dodging the bullets."

A 37-year armed conflict has made Colombia one of the world's most dangerous places for journalists. About a dozen journalists have been killed and as many as 50 remain in exile, Neira said.

In some regions, the advent of the Internet has provided alternatives for journalists to get around restrictive licensing policies and other forms of censorship.

Steven Gan, editor of the daily news Web site malaysiakini.com, said his company had benefited from a trend toward greater public interest in politics and the Malaysian government's pledge not to censor the Internet.

In some regions, the trend has been toward greater freedom of the press, though challenges remain. Journalists in the Balkans have begun cooperating in professional training and other efforts to ease antagonisms between rival states. *AP*



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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

'PEOPLE POWER' THREAT

Bet vows to rise to power like GMA

SANTIAGO CITY—Supporters of former Mayor Jose Miranda have threatened to push through with a "people's proclamation" on June 30, a day before new officials start their three-year term, if the Commission on Elections fails to proclaim the winners in the May 14 elections here.

"People power is what we need now, not purely legal matters. You do not know now what is legal and illegal with President Macapagal-Arroyo's ascension," Miranda said.

President Macapagal was installed to power by hundreds of thousands who gathered at Edsa to convict former President Joseph Estrada of plunder and corruption charges.

As Miranda's supporters approved the planned people's proclamation, some groups pitched tents to guard ballot. boxes, which remained displayed at the stage of the Bulwagan ng Mamamayan at the back of City Hall here.

Asked whether he was aware that his planned government would end up as a "de facto government," Miranda cited the Edsa II that installed Ms Macapagal.

He said he and his men have been preparing a "second line of defense" as the Comelec and opposing parties have reached a standoff.

"Even if they say we are wrong, we would stand with what we know are true and legal," he said.

Pro-Miranda supporters, though, were cautioned to maintain "maximum tolerance" to avoid bloodshed and violence in the city.

Negotiations for a safe and peaceful transport of 12 ballot boxes hit a snag Thursday as both parties did not agree on certain terms and conditions.

The Miranda group wanted to get certified copies of the statement of votes but the Comelec and the Lakas-NUCD rejected such a request.

Four lawyers earlier met with Miranda where they formulated plans for the Partido ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Kalikasan's (PDP-Laban-Kalikasan) final stand on the post-election controversy.

Both parties finally received photocopies of the temporary tally of votes showing Miranda with 23,893 votes against Mayor Amelita Navarro's 19,680 votes.

The certified tally, however, was not signed by members of the board of canvassers and tabulators.

Lawyer Cesar Torrado, board chair, said the temporary tally of votes was "a faithful reproduction of the summary of the statement of votes from...our record."

Miranda said he and his lawyers have decided to allow the transport of the ballot boxes if their conditions were met.

He said he was surprised when his supporters stormed his house. His supporters reportedly told him that they would not allow the transport of the ballot boxes and that the "(final) canvassing should be done here."

Navarro and her lawyers insisted that the canvassing should be done in Manila.

"Why is Miranda very much afraid (of) the transport of the ballot boxes?" lawyer Michael Navarro, the mayor's son, asked. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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CHR cautions Gloria on use of militiamen

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Human rights commission chair Aurora Navarrete-Recina urged the Macapagal administration to practice prudence in using the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit and vigilante groups in the military campaign against Abu Sayyaf bandits.

In urging caution, Recina did not mention the notoriety of these groups in human rights abuses during the Marcos dictatorship but said militiamen and vigilantes might only be after the P100-million bounty offered by the Macapagal administration to capture Abu Sayyaf leaders.

Giving the reward, she said, was a "political act" of President Macapagal-Arroyo who, she added, must be given a "vote of confidence" to crush the Abu Sayyaf's kidnap-for-ransom activities.

Shortly after a dialogue with the human rights advocate group Karapatan on counter-insurgency operations in Central Luzon, Recina praised the administration's no-ransom policy, saying this would stop the "cottage industry" the bandits have begun.

She said the militiamen and vigilantes, whom she described as familiar with the terrain where the Abu Sayyaf operated, could "be of help only in the intelligence gathering efforts" of the Armed Forces.

But the AFP, she warned, "must not forget the human rights dimensions of military operations" like the rights of civilians to life.

Possible encounters, she added, might pose threats to the lives of civilians.

CHR personnel in Mindanao, according to Recina, are on the watch for the possible effects of military operations on Muslims, Christians and indigenous populations.

Civilians, on the other hand, should "cooperate with the government" by giving a vote of confidence to the Macapagal administration's actions against the Abu Sayyaf and by providing information on the activities of the bandits.

"Both Muslims and Christians are not happy with the activities of the Abu Sayyaf," she said, describing members of the group as "plain criminals."

She also defended the news blackout policy of the administration, saying it was only selective and done on a short term.

"Information will have to be released as long as these do not jeopardize military operations," she said.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Boracay folk to blame, too, for stray dogs

KALIBO, Aklan—Gov. Florencio Miraflores said communities on Boracay Island should share the blame for sanitation and health problems caused by stray dogs that roam the resort-island.

Miraflores said the municipal government of Malay, to which Boracay belongs, has an ordinance against stray dogs but the officials could not effectively enforce it unless the communities in Boracay Island cooperate with them.

Miraflores said Boracay Island is not all resorts but is also composed of three villages, with many of the households owning dogs as pets.

He said Malay and Boracay officials had tried to rid the island of stray dogs but were instead criticized not just by residents but by foreign tourists as well for being cruel to animals.

Edwin Trompeta, tourism regional director in Western Visayas, earlier lamented that Malay officials failed to address the problem of stray dogs on Boracay despite an anti-stray dog campaign funded by the Department of Tourism.

The DOT gave P10,000 in 1998 to the local government to have the stray dogs killed or impounded and P10,000 in 1999 to the Task Force Boracay. A dog pound built last year by the Boracay Development Council also failed to help in the campaign against the unwanted canines.

Trompeta said he had received an "avalanche" of complaints this summer from tourists who complained of dog droppings on the white beach and numerous canines roaming the famed island.

One tourist complained of dogs urinating on his clothes and towels while he was swimming while another reported that a young boy was bitten by a sleeping dog he accidentally stepped on.

Trompeta said he himself experienced meeting more than 15 stray dogs and saw "so many droppings" while walking on the island's beach.

Odon S. Bandiola, PDI Visayas Bureau

Areas in North leave poverty list

BAGUIO CITY—Officials of the National Economic and Development Authority said the rising economy in the Cordillera has helped provinces in the region get out of the list of 20 poorest provinces.

Rodolfo Labarinto, chief economic development specialist of the regional Neda, said the region's six provinces used to belong to the poorest provinces in the country or the "Club 20."

But he said their records showed that there was a decline in poverty incidence and a growth in the gross regional development product (GRDP) in the Cordillera.

The Cordillera Administrative Region is composed of the provinces of Kalinga, Apayao, Abra, Benguet, Mt. Province and Ifugao and Baguio City.

Labarinto said they expect the number of poor families in the region to drop, based on Neda's trends recorded in 1994 and 1997.

With the poverty threshold (annual income per person required to satisfy nutritional requirements and other basic needs) pegged at P12,836, the number of poor families in the Cordillera declined from 122,942 in 1994 to 110,142 in 1997.

With this, Labarinto said, the regional poverty incidence or the proportion of families below the poverty threshold dropped from 51 percent in 1994 to 42.5 percent in 1997.

He said this drop can be attributed to the region's rising economy and various economic activities.

He said their records showed that the Cordillera's GRDP rate rose to 8.8 percent this year. Neda attributed the growth of the GRDP to the industry sector that rose by 64 percent in 1999. The industry sector includes mining activities, manufacturing, electricity, water services and quarrying.

But Labarinto acknowledged that the industry sector in the region, which is mainly dependent on the extraction and exploitation of natural resources, has depleted and done harm to the region's environment.

Benjie Navarro, regional chief of the National Statistics Coordination Board, said the region's economic growth is also harmful to its fragile environment and resources.

"We are concerned with the region's development because we are sacrificing the environment," he said.

Navarro noted that it would also be hard to measure the benefits of the region's rising economy to the poor, who make up 12 percent of the more than 1.2 million residents of the region.

"Even if there is an improvement, it remains to be seen if there is a decrease in poverty. The 117,000 poor families are still 117,000 families living in poverty," he said.

Labarinto said an indicator of the improved economy is the 15.1-percent drop in the unemployment rate of the region. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Gov turns tables on law firm

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—It's Gov. Manuel Lapid's turn to sue his law firm that sued him two months ago for his alleged failure to pay legal fees amounting to P845,493.

Provincial administrator and lawyer Benalfre Galang, also the legal adviser of Lapid, said Friday the actor-governor is seeking P4 million in moral and exemplary damages from the Panlilio Paras and Timbol law office for his "injured reputation and honor."

The law firm, represented by its managing partner, lawyer Augusto Panlilio, filed a case against Lapid at the regional trial court here on April 2.

In his complaint, Lapid said the Panlilio Paras and Timbol law office has "no legal and factual basis" for billing him.

He said there was never a lawyer-client relationship between him and the law firm because he did not hire its services.

Lapid said he hired only Panlilio as his lawyer and that the law firm's billings are "self-serving, inaccurate, bloated." They also ``lack support and verifiable data and include items which should not be included." *Jun Malig and Bert Basa, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Suspect in Chinoy murders falls

CEBU CITY—Police have arrested the prime suspect in the robbery-killing of cousins Brian and John Clemens Go at their hardware store in Cebu City on Tuesday.

Rufino Alacre, 30, was arrested by agents of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Central Visayas (CIDG-7) on Friday in Barangay Lupasang, Manukan, Zamboanga del Norte, at the residence of his wife.

Alacre, a native of Carmen, Agusan del Norte, was positively identified by witnesses Elizer Gacasan as one of the two persons who entered the Filmon Hardware Showroom on Escario Street, Cebu City on Tuesday afternoon, robbed the store and killed the Go cousins.

Police brought Alacre to Cebu City Saturday morning on board a George and Peter Lines' commercial vessel.

Alacre insisted he was innocent, claiming he was already in Barangay Lupasang in Manukan when the crimes occurred. But he admitted that he served the Filmon Hardware for three years from 1997 to 2000.

Supt. Edwin Diocos, chief of CIDG-7, however said they have a strong case against Alacre. He said his men found that Alacre arrived in Zamboanga del Norte only last Wednesday, or a day after the crime happened.

Diocos said they also recovered a bloodstained P500 bill and a suicide note from the wallet of Alacre. The P500 bill was believed to be part of the P1,000 (two P500 bills) taken by the two suspects from the Filmon Hardware.

A suicide note, dated June 2, contained Alacre's message to his wife, denying the crime.

Diocos believed Alacre was planning to commit suicide had he not been arrested.

The same suicide note also quoted Alacre as writing that he was "demoralized" by charges that he tried to kill Lloyd Carampatan, a witness in a murder case involving a Cebu City policeman, PO3 Engilberto Durano.

The Carampatan family, however, retracted their earlier statement identifying Alacre as the one who shot and wounded Llyod early this year.

Pedro Carampatan, Lloyd's father, said the suspect in the shooting of his son resembled Alacre but his height and body build did not fit the description of the man who shot Lloyd.

Police earlier filed frustrated murder charges against Carampatan for the shooting of Lloyd. The frustrated murder case against Alacre might be withdrawn but murder and robbery charges would be filed on Monday against him for the killing of the Go cousins, police said. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Apayao polls not a failure, say officials

ELECTION and police officials in Apayao province expressed reluctance to declare a failure of elections in the province.

Alexander Pilotin, acting provincial election supervisor, was quoted in a statement as saying there were no incidents of violence or fraud during the elections in the province.

"I can say that the election exercise here is generally peaceful and orderly compared to other parts of the country where fraud and cheating were very evident," Pilotin said.

He said he was in close coordination with provincial police authorities.

He also denied reports that he was biased in favor of some candidates in the province.

"There is no reason for me to be partisan. I was stationed in Ifugao and was reshuffled this May for the elections. Personally I don't know any of the candidates here," Pilotin said.

Senior Supt. Donato Baquian, in the same statement, was quoted as saying there was tension only after the killing of a boy during the campaign.

But Baquian said the killing was an isolated incident. "No other similar incident was reported in any of the municipalities," said the police officer.

Last Friday, the Commission on Elections proclaimed Rep. Elias K. Bulut as winner in the gubernatorial race for the province.

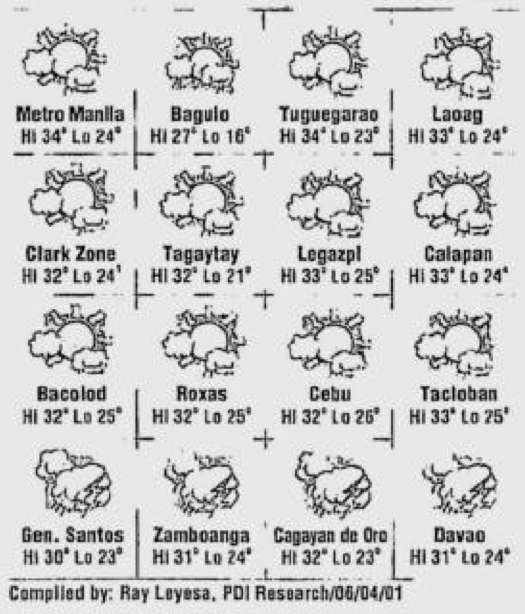
Bulut's son, Elias Jr., also won as congressman of the province replacing his father.

Bulut said his rivals want the Comelec to declare a failure of elections in the province because they lost their bids despite attempts to buy votes.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao and Palawan will be mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rianshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA



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Bacolod Hi 32° Lo 25°	Roxas Hi 32° Lo 25°	Cebu Hi 32° Lo 26°	Tacloban Hi 33° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos Hi 30° Lo 23°	Zamboanga Hi 31° Lo 24°	Cagayan de Oro Hi 32° Lo 23°	Davao Hi 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/06/04/01

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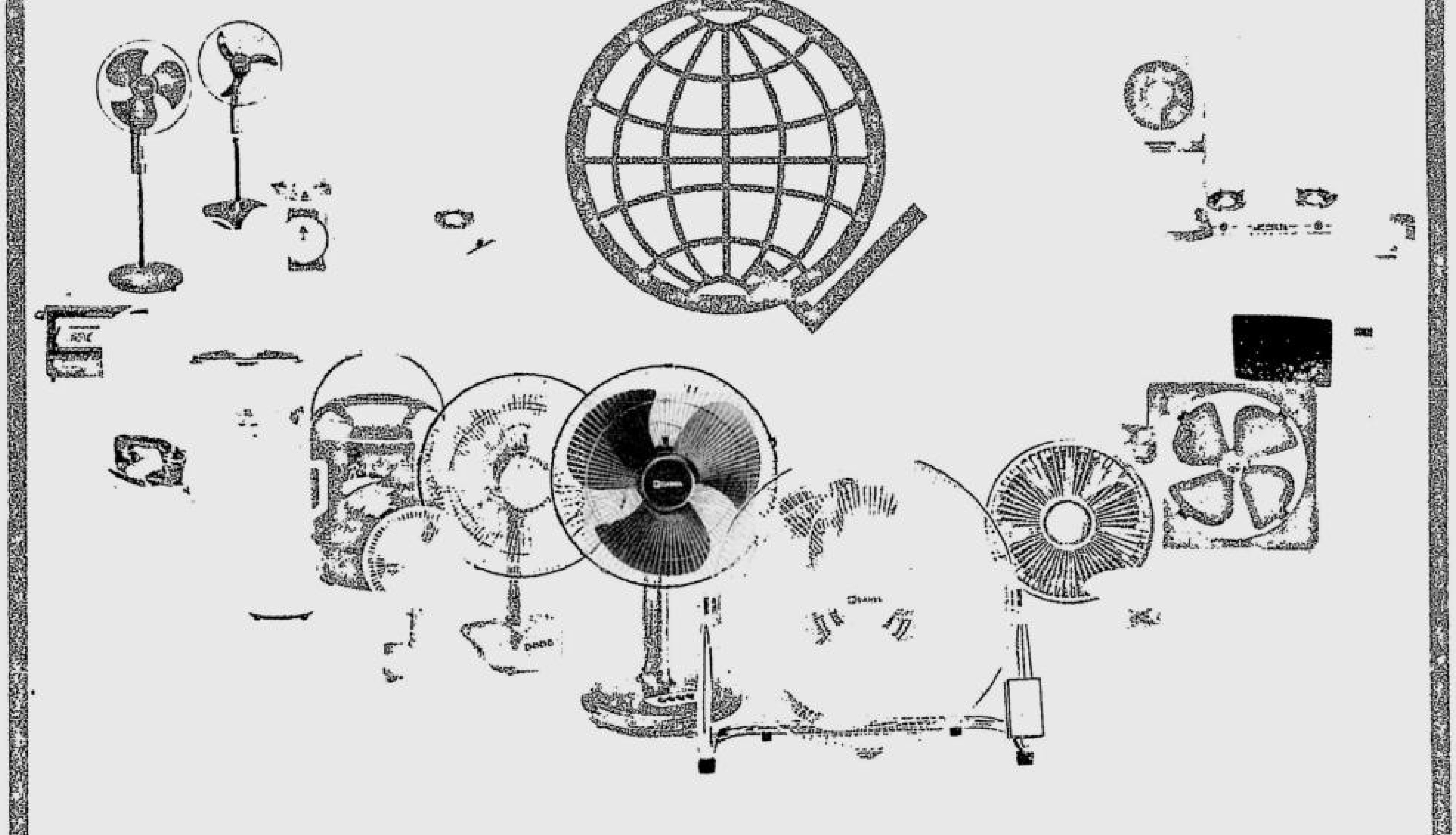

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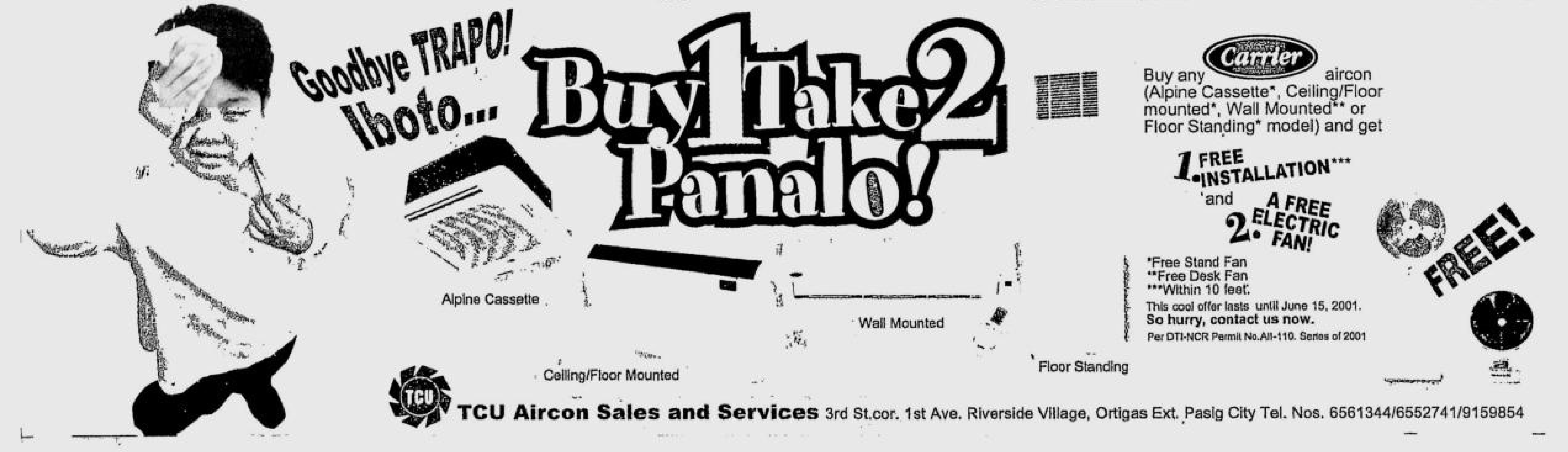

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PHILIPPINE ENVIRONMENT MONTH

MESSAGES

Warmest greetings as the Filipino nation joins the world in celebrating World Environment Day.

It is with great pride that I congratulate the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for spearheading the Philippine Environment Month of June celebrations that includes World Environment Day on June 5 and DENR Anniversary Day on June 10.

At the start of this Administration, we indicated our commitment to institute safety nets for sectors affected by globalization and safeguards for our environment. This is with the aim of giving priority to the poor in our economic development and addressing the perils presented by globalization. In the area of environmental conservation, our Administration has already set policies and undertaken several programs to ensure the protection of the environment. Among the steps we have undertaken is the expeditious approval of the legislation on solid waste management, the first piece of legislation that I signed into law.

In cognizance of the importance of environmental conservation to our goal of sustainable development and betterment of the quality of lives of our people, we welcome the celebration of this year's World Environment Day and Philippine Environment Month. We view these events as further opportunities to gather support for our government's efforts to conserve the environment. This year's theme " Connect with the World Wide Web of Life" urges greater participation in the present global movement to care for the environment. Environment and development indeed are viewed all over the world as inseparable concerns in the global era.

I encourage everyone to join this year celebration for the environment with stronger personal commitment and advocacy towards its conservation and protection. With our concerted efforts behind this endeavor, we will succeed in forgoing our country's sustainable development and a cleaner healthier and more prosperous future for our people.

MABUHAY!

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL- ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

◆◆◆◆◆

On June 5, we celebrate the International observance of World Environment Day and the 14th Founding Anniversary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on June 10.

Immediately after the 1986 EDSA People Power Revolution, we worked hard to cure a sick nation, with its plundered forests and polluted water bodies stressed in an economic crisis and buoyant in a restored democratic Constitutional system.

Let us build this institution that serves as a vanguard to protect the forest, clear the air, rehabilitate water bodies, assist garbage management and mitigate global warming and climate change.

We cannot even begin to hope for a good life unless we are assured of a life-giving environment.

A ruined environment could only mean a ruined society.

Let us strive to conserve and strengthen our environment, a fragile web that we share with the rest of the world.

HEHERSON T. ALVAREZ
Secretary
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

◆◆◆◆◆

This year's World Environment Day with its slogan " Connect with the World Wide of Life ", is a reminder that the Earth with all its complex, interlocking ecosystems, is the foundation of our lives. It is our common heritage. The bounty of nature is one and indivisible. It knows no frontiers, no territorial borders, It does not recognize any North-South divide or East- West distinction.

As in a family, every element in nature, however small, is part of a whole and contributes to the harmony of the whole and to its delicate overall balance. Every animal and plant species known or unknown – has its place, role and function, deserving of protection just as a family protects all its members. Stewardship is symbiosis with all life on earth. This is the role envisioned for us. Indigenous peoples recognized that the relationship between humans, plants, animals and all life forms was sacred

It is the job of government to protect their citizens. But governments cannot do the job alone. We need every individual citizen to help ensure strong environmental protection. Joining together is not a matter of choice- it is a necessity. We all breathe the same air, drink the same water, and work and play in the same environment. Let us use the occasion of the World Environment Day to remind every citizen, communities and the business and industry that " the Earth is in our hands". By joining together, we can take the common sense steps we need to take—and be proud to pass along the safe, clean world to our children and our children's children.

KLAUS TOEPFER
UNEP Executive Director

DENR leads the nation in environmental protection

A member of the indigenous community offers a seedling to Pres. Gloria Macapagal -Arroyo and Sec. Heherson T. Alvarez during the Earth Day celebration in Malacanang

On June 10, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) celebrates its 14th Founding Anniversary.

As the primary government agency responsible for the sustainable development of the country's environment and natural resources, the DENR is committed to building an institution that serves as a vanguard of the Filipino people.

In accordance with the environmental thrusts of the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo,DENR Secretary Heherson T. Alvarez has vowed to protect the forest, clear the air, rehabilitate water bodies, assist garbage management and help mitigate global warming and address climate change.

History. The DENR had its beginnings in the old Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR). Recognizing the fact that natural resources and agriculture were too broad and diversified, then President Ferdinand E. Marcos issued Presidential Decree No 461 in May 1974, creating the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

But the shift in the form of government from presidential to parliamentary in 1978 brought in major changes in various government offices. The DNR was replaced by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR).

Also, Executive Order No. 967 transferred the management of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) from MNR to the Ministry of Agriculture

EDSA I. The events of February 1986 brought about radical changes which altered the character of the MNR. First, then President Corazon C. Aquino issued Executive Order No 131 on 30 January 1987, creating the Department of Energy, Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

But the set up only lasted for about five months, for in June 1987, the President issued Executive Order No. 192 which clearly clarified and defined the present DENR.

E.O 192 mandated the department to promote the well-being of the Filipino people through the sustainable development of forest resources; optimal utilization of lands and minerals; social equity and efficiency in resource use, and effective environmental management

Today, fourteen years after, the DENR has undergone major changes in its policies and programs.

Civil society-NGO desk. One of the most urgent programs of the Department initiated by Secretary Alvarez is to strengthen its ties with civil society and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

This was institutionalized by virtue of Department Administrative Order (DAO) No. 16 creating the Civil Society Action Network (CSAN) in the Department.

Anti-Illegal logging campaign. Secretary Alvarez also declared war on illegal logging activities throughout the country, especially the wanton cutting of trees in some parts of Mindanao.

This resulted in the seizure of illegally-cut logs amounting to Php 78 million involving 10,462.07 cu.m. for year 2001 alone and the filing of criminal cases against illegal loggers and administrative cases against DENR personnel involved in the illegal scheme.

Massive tree planting. In cooperation with the private sector, the DENR will spearhead a massive tree planting program involving 300 million seedlings/saplings in order to re-green the country's denuded forests and urban centers while intensifying the delineation of permanent forest lines to curb illegal activities such as poaching, squatting and illegal cutting.

CBFMP. To alleviate from poverty the upland communities, the Community-Based Forest Management Program (CBFMP) will be strengthened.

The Department will also accelerate the implementation of the Land Distribution Program to provide land to small farmers through the issuance of more patents over public A & D lands in the lowland areas.

Environmental laws. The DENR under Secretary Alvarez will ensure the full implementation of all environmental laws, particularly Republic Act 8749 or the Clean Air Act and Republic Act 9003 or the Solid Waste Management Act.

Foreign assistance. It will also promote private sector participation and investments in economically-viable environmental projects or undertakings.

The Department will strengthen its partnership with foreign organizations such as the agencies affiliated with the United Nations (UN) and donor communities in environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources

Biodiversity, coastal and marine resources. The DENR commits itself to the sustainable development of the country's parks, protected landscapes and seascapes, coastal and marine areas, as well as develop an integrated land use plan.

An efficient monitoring system in protected areas will be maintained in partnership with civil society, mountaineering groups and the people in the communities together with forest rangers in identifying areas with illegal logging activities, poaching and even squatting.

Mining. The Department will strictly implement a democratic and transparent system in the processing of mining permits where all sides will be heard and all parties concerned will be informed.

It will not tolerate the destruction that mining may bring to the environment and the dangers it may pose to human and animal health. When high technology will be used for sustainable mining, the DENR will make sure that enough safeguards are put in place for the use of this technology

Indigenous peoples. Secretary Alvarez, himself a member of the *Ibanag* tribe in the country's northern regions, takes cognizance of the immense knowledge of the indigenous cultural communities in the conservation of our natural resources as holders of the old practices in sustainable development. As guardians of the land, their concerns will be considered in the plans and plans and programs of the Department.

The Secretary will also ask Congress to harmonize the conflicting provisions of environmental laws affecting the *katutubo*, such as the National Integrated Protected Area System (NIPAS) Act, Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) and Mining Act, among others

As the nation moves on under the new leadership of President Macapagal-Arroyo, Secretary Alvarez is calling for a change in the mindset of DENR officials and employees, urging them to seek new values and work ethics.

World Environment Day June 5 ...Get Connected !

While some 150 countries celebrate World Environment Day on June 5, the Philippines will be joining the global community through the month-long celebration of Philippine Environment Month.

Revolving around the theme "Connect with the World Wide Web of Life," Philippine Environment Month reminds us that whatever small things we do affects another. That each one of us – each life, each specie – is linked together in an intricate but fragile web which we share with the rest of the world.

This year's observance would zero in on collective efforts to drum up public awareness and enthusiasm on the benefits of exercising sustainable development.

"The month of June has been declared as Philippine Environment Month through Presidential Proclamation No. 237 issued by then President Corazon Aquino in 1988, coinciding with the international observance of World Environment Day on June 5 and the Founding Anniversary of the DENR every 10th of June.

The Proclamation was in consonance with a United Nations (UN) resolution in 1972 declaring June 5 of each year as World Environment Day, urging its member-countries to undertake on that day activities reaffirming their concern for the preservation and enhancement of the environment.

DENR enters 'CYBER AGE'

TEXT @ Email DENR

IF you cannot get the local authorities to act on your complaints, be it a growing garbage dump or a factory blowing black smoke, you can now easily air your complain directly to DENR via text or e-mail.

On May 31, 2001, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed by the DENR with Globe Telecom and Smart Communications Inc., two telecommunications giants in the country.

So starting next month, cellular phone users will now be able to send their text messages directly to the Office of Secretary Alvarez and even use their mobile phones to e-mail DENR where complains and suggestions will be handled by a quick-response team.

The project, dubbed "TXT, E-mail DENR," takes advantage of the developments in telecommunication through the use of the popular texting and e-mailing.

It is expected to boost the Department's efforts to give fast response to requests, inquiries and complaints requiring immediate action from DENR field officers

Cell phone users will be able to send e-mail messages through their units at denr@globe.com.ph while the cell phone numbers of DENR where text messages can be sent will be announced later at its formal launching on June 11 during the DENR anniversary celebration.

Under the MOA, the two telecommunications firms will assign "at no cost to the government" at least 10 cellular phone units, 10 cellular phone lines, and one internet service provider account.

They will also provide an unlimited short message service or text capability.

With the technology in place, the DENR will be the first national government agency to utilize the technology after Malacanang launched "TEXT-GMA" in April of this year.

NGO-Civil Society desk at DENR

CONSISTENT with the policy of the Macapagal-Arroyo administration to involve non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in shaping the nation's development, the DENR has institutionalized a "counter-partnership of civil society in the Department's plans, programs and projects" by establishing the Civil Society Action Network (CSAN).

The NGO Desk, scrapped by the previous administration, would not only be institutionalized in the new CSAN but will be strengthened to include a broader coalition of all concerned sectors.

The move is in recognition of the vital participation of not only the NGOs but members of civil society as well in the protection,conservation, management and development of the environment and natural resources within the context of sustainable development.

The CSAN, created by Secretary Alvarez through Department Administrative Order No. 16, will be under the control and supervision of the Director for Special Concerns at the national level and of the Regional Executive Director (RED) at the regional level.

Philippine Environment Month 2001 Calendar of Activities

DATE/TIME	ACTIVITIES
June 3 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	DENR Exhibit (ribbon cutting by the Secretary) Munting Dalin Exhibit (ribbon cutting) at Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Nature Center (NAPWNC)
	"Green Families Green Communities" Picnic/Eco-Workshops beginning with bike and motorcade and exhibit opening at NAPWNC
June 4 – 9	DENR Symposium in offices and attached agencies such as Forest Management Bureau, Environmental Management Bureau, Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau, and Laguna Lake Development Authority
June 15 – 29	Roving Eco workshops in different school campuses on topics such as: mapping and surveying, water resource management; environmental regulation on natural mineral policy; biodiversity; lands surveying regulation environmental user fees for industries; ecological waste management and clean air act; forest ecosystems, grassland resources values and uses; and role of mangroves in protecting the coastal environment
	Schools include Makati College, Adamson University, MAPUA, Manila Science High School, Southern Luzon Polytechnic University, Innotech, FEATI, UP Science High School, Rizal State College, Collegio de San Lorenzo Ruiz, PUP, Letran, and others.
	Campus tours also include tree planting iSave and Adopt a Treei inside university campuses
June 4 9-12 noon	DENR Telekalikasan on RPN Channel 9
June 5 7-2:30 PM	World Environment Day Tree planting with Ambassadors and Papal Nuncio at the Fort; MOA signing in establishing a tree plantation at UP Campus; reviving the waste segregation practice in every office premises, launching of DENR website
June 8 9-5 PM	Launching of Partnership for Clean Air at ADB
June 8-11	Ecology Fair that includes food festival, tiange, and DENR livelihood programs at NAPWNC Mountain Climbing Set-up at NAPWNC
June 11-19 9:00-9:30 PM	Special Environmental Drama over DZRH Radyo Balintataw
June 12	Independence Day Participation
June 13	Launching/modeling of DENR project on Habitat for Humanity at Baras, Rizal
June 15 1-5PM	Forum on Alternative Fuels for Cleaner Air at Visitoris Visitoris Center, NAPWNC
June 17-20	International Conference on Protected Area Management at APEC Villa, Subic, Olongapo City
June 18	Turn-over of Legal Manuscript of Atty. Antonio Oposa to the Supreme Court at the Supreme Court
June 18-22	Environment Week of the province of Negros Occidental
June 18-23	Emission Testing Seminar Workshop at the Asian Environmental Resource Center in Cebu City
June 20	Workshop on Civil Society
June 20-22	Book launching: Key Conservation Sites in the Philippines at NAPWNC
June 21	Launching of Environmental Desk in Police Detachments in Cebu City Fuel Conservation Seminar at NAPWNC
June 22 8 AM	Waste Management Forum at Rembrandt Hotel
June 20-23 8 AM	Marine Turtle Management Workshop at Westin Philippine Plaza
June 25	Trade Exhibit at Hotel Intercon
June 26	Trade Exhibit at Glorieta, Makati
June 26-27	Southeast Asia Forum on Climate Change Issues at Westin Philippine Plaza

Department
of Environment
and Natural Resources

WATCH *Tele-Kalikasan*, a telethon for the environment on Monday, JUNE 5, 9:00 AM to 12:00 NN, aired live over RPN Channel 9. The public is invited to call and join in discussing ways and participate in programs to protect the forest, air and water, to promote a culture of garbage recyling and composting. Made possible in part by PAGCOR, PCSO, RCBC, UNILEVER, and THE EARTHSAVERS.

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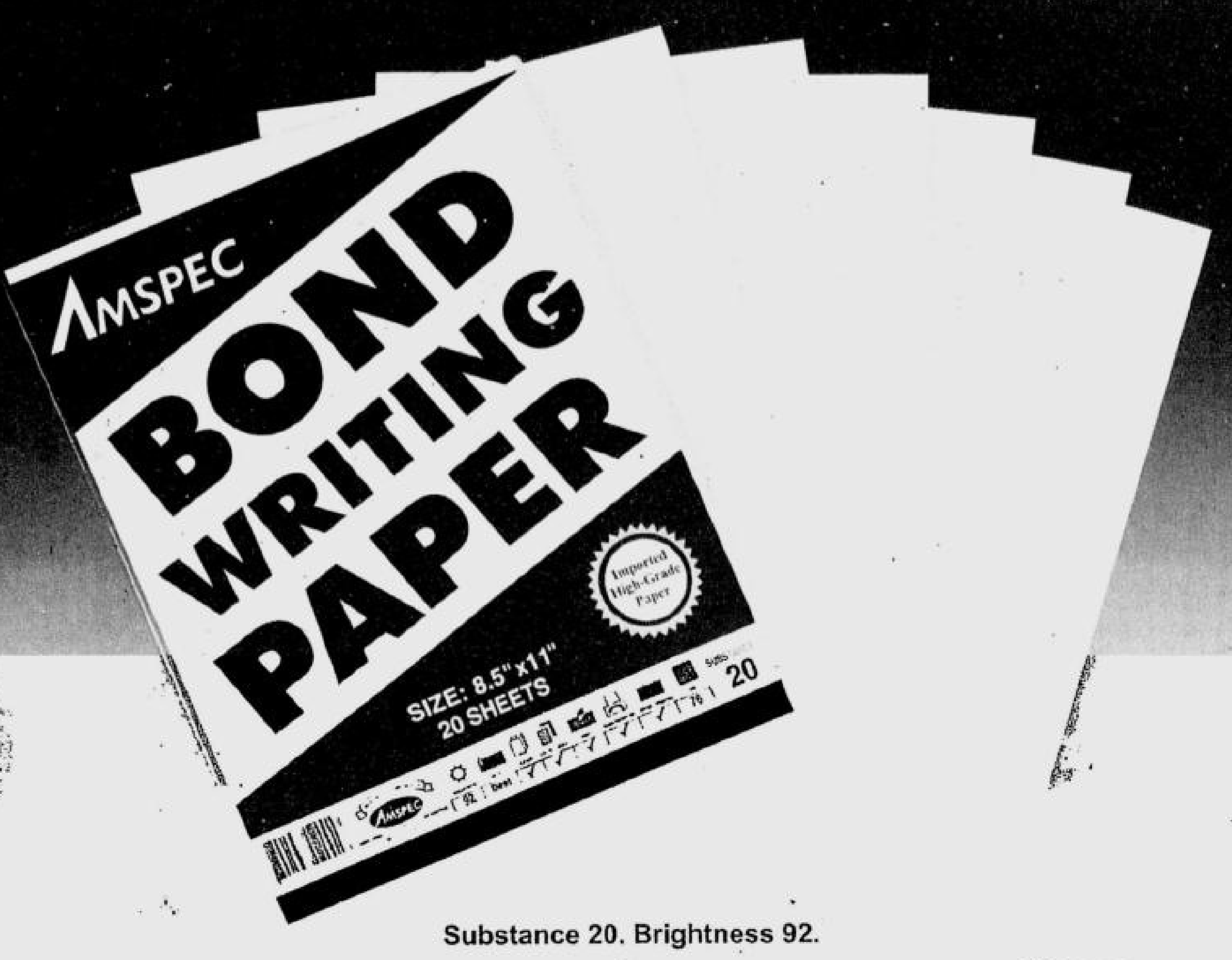

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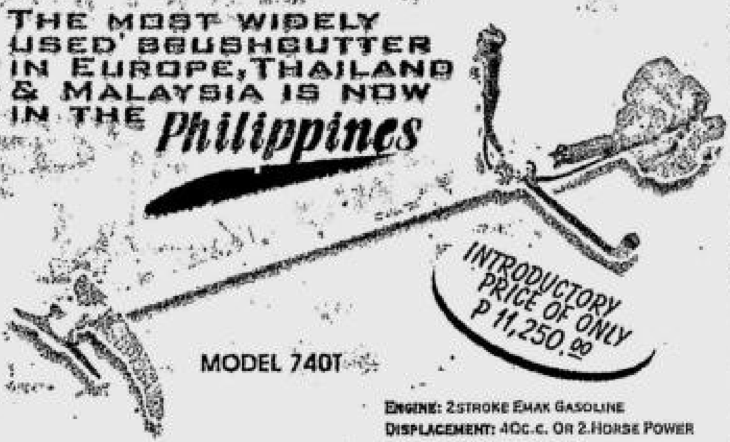
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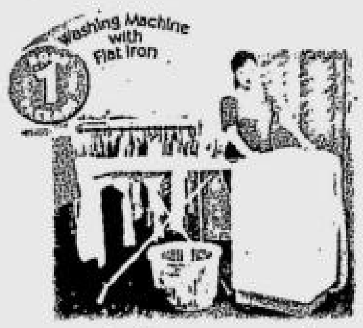
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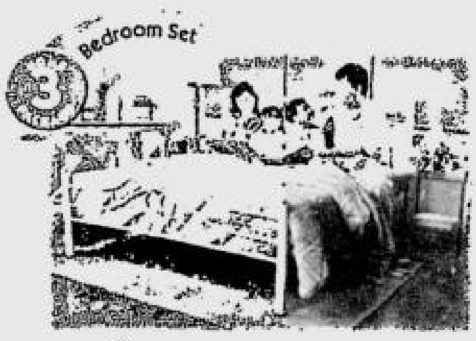
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Php 4M to 4,999,999.99	Living Room Set
Php 5M and above	TV 50.8 cm (20") with VCD Player

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No 1170 Series of 2001

US says RP kidnap drama 'disturbing'

(From page A1)

stormed a hospital and a church in Lamitan and took 200 more hostages.

But after nearly a day of fighting, the guerrillas broke through the military cordon and fled into the jungle with the Americans and a number of Filipino hostages.

Nine of the Palawan hostages managed to escape during the fierce gun battle.

Lugar, who serves in the US Senate foreign relations and intelligence committees, among other panels of the upper house, was the second member of the US legislature to come to the Philippines for talks with Ms Macapagal since the hostage-taking incident.

US Rep. Robert Underwood held talks with Ms Macapagal last week, saying Washington looked forward to trying to work together on contacts at all levels including at a military level.

US Embassy officials made it clear that Lugar's trip was part of a regional visit and had been planned long in advance.

Manila lead

The US state department last week called for the immediate release of all the captives, reiterated its policy of not paying ransom, and stressed that Manila "has the lead" in resolving the crisis.

Lugar also emphasized that governments should share information to combat hostage-taking and other dangerous, transnational crimes so that "we could turn this terrible tragedies into confidence building measures."

He cited the deadly 1994 nervegas attack by the Japanese Aum Supreme Truth cult on the Tokyo subway, saying that although the attack was confined to the Japanese capital, the group had links in several other countries.

He said such crimes "can happen in our homelands" and called for information sharing and stepped up training to tackle them.

The US and Philippine governments have been discussing how they can work together to resolve the kidnapping crisis, but local officials stressed they have only talked about exchanges of information, not military aid.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao had said that so far, there had only been "a general offer of help" and remarked that there had been no "concrete or specific area of cooperation discussed."

War games

In Zambales, Philippine officials are ensuring that American servicemen and the war games they are participating in until June 11 are confined in military bases to allay suspicions they were in the country to support the operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

Land exercises for the Cooperation Afloat Readiness Training (Carat-01), which began Monday, will be held inside the Philippine Navy's education and training command, formerly the US San Miguel Communications Center, in San Antonio, Zambales.

Marine activities will be limited inside a training base at Sangley Point in Ternate, Cavite, according to Commodore Mariano Santillosa, Carat-01 Philippine director.

He said four US war ships that will be out at sea will be restricted to west of Luzon.

The Scarborough Shoal, a territory contested by China and the Philippines, will not be used for the exercises involving at least 1,400 US troops and nearly 2,000 Philippine Marine and Navy personnel, Santillosa said.

"We will be very particular about their presence. Our bases are enclosed areas. Nobody would go outside," he told the INQUIRER.

Carat-01, Santillosa said, had "no relations whatsoever with what is being undertaken in Mindanao."

"It just so happened that the joint exercises are scheduled at this time," he said.

Teams of the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFACom), an interagency body that monitors the conduct of the exercises, are monitoring the activities of Carat-01 personnel, according to Elmer Cato, the commission's spokesperson.

Suspicions

But suspicions have hardly died down despite these assurances.

Sonia Soto, chair of the Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya, said "foreign intervention in domestic affairs cannot be discounted as it has been a common US preoccupation especially if US business interests are on the line."

Soto issued the statement in reference to presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao's disclaimer that the "help" being offered by the United States is the "kind of help one offers to friends." *Reports from AFP and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

FBI agents want to talk to ex-hostages

US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents want to interview the nine Filipino hostages who escaped from Abu Sayyaf kidnappers to determine the condition of three American captives, a US Embassy official said Sunday.

US Charge d'affaires Michael Malinowski said the FBI would seek local authorities' help to speak with the hostages who dashed to freedom from the bandits.

American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham, longtime Philippine residents originally from Kansas, and Californian Guillermo Sobrero are still being held captive by the rebels.

They were among 20 people seized from a tourist resort off the western island of Palawan on May 27.

Nine of the Filipino hostages escaped when the military clashed with the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan on Saturday. However, two others were slain by the gunmen.

Malinowski said the three Americans were last sighted in a hospital occupied by the Abu Sayyaf on Saturday but said this information was "a day old."

"Once again, the situation is very fluid," he said after the Abu Sayyaf escaped from the hospital, taking their hostages with them.

The FBI, which has an office in Manila, has been monitoring the kidnapping crisis. Philippine officials say this is standard procedure whenever an American is abducted abroad. ***AFP***

'I saw fear in Americans' faces'

(From page A1)

"I am still alive. This is not yet my time," said Fr. Cirilo Nacorda, who has been held hostage by the Abu Sayyaf in the past.

He was among the 200 people held inside the St. Peter's Church and the Dr. Jose Maria Torres Hospital and was earlier rumored to have been killed.

Nacorda allegedly hid in an underground room when the bandits took over the church and the hospital early Saturday.

Five of the 20 hostages seized from the Dos Palmas Arreceffi Island Resort in Puerto Princesa City on May 27 were able to escape Saturday night.

They were Raul Recio and his wife Divine, Teresa Guanzon, Letty Jao and Janice Go.

Earlier that day, the Recios' 8-year-old son RJ escaped with property developer Reghis Romero II and his companion Maria Rizza Santos. A resort security guard, Eldrin Morales, escaped Friday night, allegedly while about to be killed by his captors.

The freedom of the nine hostages was overshadowed by the death of two others.

The bandits killed resort workers Sonny Daquer and Armando Bayona. *(See story on Page A1.)*

Lamitan police chief Omar Ajit Dalawis said his men found the bodies of Daquer and Bayona at 2:30 p.m. yesterday in Barangay Bulanting, three kilometers from the town proper.

He said the bodies were in a "state of decomposition."

Dalawis said Bayona, a security guard of Dos Palmas, was beheaded. Daquer had hack wounds.

The killing allegedly happened while the bandits and the hostages were on their way to Lamitan town, where they occupied the church and the adjacent hospital.

Malacañang denounced the beheading of the two resort workers.

"The Abu Sayyaf members are beasts," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao told reporters in Filipino.

He said President Macapagal-Arroyo was "saddened" by the incident.

Remaining hostages

Still with the bandits are the three Americans, Luis Recio, Angie Montealegre, Luis Bautista III, Francis Guanzon, Lalaine Chua and Kimberly Jao.

Janice Go said the kidnappers "escaped and brought the rest of our companions, including the three Americans."

"They retreated when night fell while covering themselves with sporadic fire," she said. "We untied ourselves from the rest and managed to escape during the heavy volley of gunfire."

Another escaped hostage, Teresa Guanzon, voiced fears the other hostages would be harmed in the military attacks.

"If possible, please negotiate first because the hostages are alive and are in real danger," said Guanzon.

As the rebels began retreating amid the gunfire, "we merged with the rest because they did not notice us and (dashed) to our freedom," Guanzon said.

As they left the church and hospital, the bandits brought with them five more hostages—nurses Deborah Yap and Reina Malonzo, midwife Sheila Bunyag, Joel Juilo and Joel Notario, principal of the Begang Elementary School.

A teacher who escaped the ordeal told stories of horror.

"We lived from explosion to explosion, fearing the next one would kill us all," said Aurora Samson, a 60-year-old teacher. "It was a nightmare. Because of the volume of gunfire, I thought there would be no tomorrow."

She said the 27 hostages in the same room with her and her granddaughter hid under beds and huddled on the urine-soaked floor of a concrete-walled bathroom in the bullet-scarred, debris-cluttered hospital.

Hospital administrator Antonio Aguilera said several hospital staffers were missing, including two nurses, a midwife and an accounting clerk.

Tearful reunion

The five hostages who escaped Saturday night arrived at the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City at 5:15 p.m. aboard an Air Force C-130 plane.

Tears welled in the eyes of Raul Recio and his wife Divine as they got reunited with their son RJ.

Divine, clad in a maroon shirt and blue denim pants, cried unabashedly as she hugged her son tightly, while her husband, who was limping with a wound in the left leg, looked on.

The reunion elicited a smile from Ms Macapagal, who escorted the boy to her parents.

After a brief talk with the President, the five were whisked away into vans to a military camp for debriefing.

Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, Armed Forces spokesperson, said the families of the remaining resort hostages were allowed to talk to Romero who was flown to Manila Saturday night.

"Mr. Romero had informed them that the hostages were in good condition except of being tired and sometimes being hungry," Adan said in a briefing in Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City yesterday morning.

Adan disclosed that as of June 1, 10 fishermen seized by the Abu Sayyaf between the Cagayan de Tawi-Tawi and Sulu archipelago were also recovered.

They were identified as Julian Rayla, Anias Conales, Rolan Rayla, Reynaldo Conales, Baldomar Gonzaga, Celso Macanungas, Poche Campos, Romulo Ollave, Inday Ollave and Romeo Ollave.

In Davao City, Philippine Independent Church Bishop Felixberto Calang said the government should initiate "more creativity" in dealing with the Abu Sayyaf rather than just resorting to an all-out war policy.

"The government can't be limited to one recourse and if it doesn't have more creativity in dealing with the problem, it can't effectively ensure the security of the people," Calang said. *Reports from Julie Alipala-Inot, Jonathan F. Ma and Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Carlito Pablo, TJ Burgonio and Martin P. Marfil and Inquirer wires*

Captive's beheading . . .

(From page A1)

from the island resort on May 27.

Armando's father refused to say anything more in his sorrow and anger.

He and several companions had to leave immediately to console Armando's older brother, Paquito, a retired Air Force master sergeant, who had reportedly lost control and was creating a disturbance at the Western Command headquarters here.

The pregnant wife of Dos Palmas cook Sandy Dacquer, 33—another hostage who was reported killed—was also tightlipped and stonyfaced.

Six months pregnant with her third child, Josephine Dacquer refused to believe reports of her husband's death.

"Sandy already had a feeling earlier that the Abu Sayyaf group would strike at Dos Palmas," was all she would say, as she fought to control her emotions.

Chopping off the heads of their hostages is a trademark of the ruthless Abu Sayyaf kidnap group, whose name means Bearer of the Sword.

Beheading has been a hallmark of the mostly young gunmen who mouth Islamic extremist slogans and practice kidnapping and extortion as a profession.

"It has a history written in blood," a military commander once said of the Abu Sayyaf.

News of Bayona's beheading sent shivers yesterday through the nation.

"The terror of the Abu Sayyaf has been an eye-opener for us," said sociologist Randy David of the University of the Philippines.

Heads have rolled

In 1994, only a few years after it was founded by a youthful, firebrand Moro preacher, Abdurajak Janjalani, the group shot dead 15 civilian hostages they seized in Basilan island. They beheaded several of them.

In 1999 they decapitated the son of a retired doctor they kidnapped in Sulu after the family failed to heed their demand for ransom.

The gunmen also toppled the heads of two schoolteachers who were among 29 people they held hostage in Basilan in April 2000.

Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya said at that time the beheading was carried out on April 19, as a gift to then President Joseph Estrada on his birthday.

Soldiers found the bodies of the two teachers, both retired soldiers, in a shallow grave.

The Abu Sayyaf said it used a sword in beheading the teachers.

A Roman Catholic priest, Fr. Roel Gallardo, who was kidnapped along with the teachers, was tortured—some of his fingernails and toenails plucked one by one.

First blood

Soon after the April 2000 beheading, a military spokesperson said: "They have drawn first blood and signed their own death warrant."

But it was not to be.

Police said the bodies of the two Filipinos recovered in the village of Bulanting in Basilan yesterday were already in a state of decomposition, meaning they could have been slain on Friday, the first day of fighting when the Abu Sayyaf brought the Palawan hostages to Basilan.

The Abu Sayyaf made global headlines when they crossed over to the Malaysian resort of Sipadan last year and abducted a multinational group of tourists and Malaysian resort workers.

"Today, they may seem as nothing as more than kidnap-for-ransom entrepreneurs. But tomorrow they may decide to become a Moro revolutionary army," David said. *Reports from Geraldford Ticke and Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Agence France Presse*

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Abu Sayyaf bandits escape military cordon

(From page A1)

The sight of the church with its glass windows shattered and the Jose Torres Memorial Hospital with its walls peppered with bullets also greeted Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva when he visited the scene of devastation left behind by the kidnappers.

"This is a disaster," said Lamitan parish priest Fr. Cirilo Nacorda as he surveyed the wreckage.

Armed with assault rifles and rocket launchers, the kidnappers took with them the remaining Palawan hostages—American missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham and tourist Guillermo Sobero, as well as Filipinos Luis Recio, Angie Montealegre, Luis Bautista III, Francis Ganzon, Lalaine Chua and Kimberly Jao.

The bandits also brought with them five more hostages from the hospital compound—nurses Deborah Yap and Reina Malonzo, midwife Sheila Bunyag, Joel Juilo and Joel Notario, principal of the Begang Elementary School in Lamitan.

The slip

Witnesses said the gunmen made the slip under the cover of darkness, leaving behind hundreds of troops and two helicopter gunships which had surrounded the hospital and church compound.

Sixty to 100 Abu Sayyaf terrorists "covered their escape with a heavy volume of fire and then used children and other hostages as human shields," Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan told a news conference in Manila.

"Our troops withheld their fire . . . (even if) they saw rebels moving because some of the hostages might be hit," he said, explaining how the kidnappers were able to escape.

Around 100 other Abu Sayyaf gunmen positioned outside the compound mounted a fierce counter-attack in a ploy to divert attention and allow the main bulk of their forces to escape, Adan said.

"The breakthrough of these terrorists was done under the cover of darkness, using diversionary attacks elsewhere . . . using their troops that were located outside the hospital compound," he said.

Hours after the hostage takers' escape, troops clashed with Abu Sayyaf units in the village of Balobo outside Lamitan, Adan said, but gave no details.

"They are now being pursued by our troops. There is now a buildup of forces there and the operation continues."

A Marine officer told the Agence France Presse there was an apparent "breakdown of communication because the rebels escaped through the back. We thought it was sealed off."

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who has taken a tough line on the kidnappings, repeated that there would be no letup in the military operation and that no ransoms would be paid.

"We will negotiate for their unconditional release, but no ransom. Negotiation is always part of military action, to convince them the alternative is worse. Die now or face due process later," she said.

'Tradeoff'

One Army captain was killed during the kidnappers' chaotic flight, when a rocket fired from a rebel launcher blasted his armored car, crippling the vehicle.

Adan said a total of 13 soldiers, including the captain, were killed in the fighting and 41 were wounded. Seven civilians have died.

But field reports show that at least 14 troopers have been killed. On June 2, six Scout Rangers were killed when government troops clashed with the bandits in Tuburan town. In the Lamitan siege Saturday, eight soldiers and militiamen were also killed.

"We suffered many casualties because our soldiers were very careful not to hurt the hostages," Adan said.

"There was a tradeoff here because we didn't want the hostages hurt," he told reporters.

The government has no estimate of Abu Sayyaf casualties, Adan said. The military has identified only one fatality as Abu Sayyaf commander Yusup Ladjal.

Adan noted that the bandits immediately bury the bodies of their fallen comrades as part of Islamic practice.

"Their dead must be buried before sundown," Adan said. "That's why bodies are seldom found."

Adan said the government was still verifying reports of the death of Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadafy Janjalani.

Topsy-turvy

Fighting raged until around 3 a.m. yesterday with the terrorists using mortars and rocket-propelled grenades, forcing hundreds of Lamitan's 50,000 residents and a number of journalists to flee in panic.

A power outage had plunged the town into darkness.

Marines took control of the church around 4 a.m. but found no kidnappers or hostages.

Rocket fire either from Air Force helicopters or from Abu Sayyaf rocket launchers had heavily damaged the church's roof and tore out craters on roads outside the hospital complex.

Sunlight shone through bullet holes in the church's wooden walls, a gaping gash was ripped into the church ceiling and debris was scattered all over the altar.

The rebels ransacked a room for Roman Catholic nuns, scattering books and papers and writing graffiti on the wall denouncing Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar.

The whitewashed walls of the adjacent hospital were also pockmarked with bullet craters and the entire compound was littered with shattered concrete and glass shards. Empty shells were strewn around the hospital floor.

"Everything is topsy-turvy," said Akbar, who toured the compound early Sunday.

He said a corpse was found lying under a palm tree in front of the church. Another body was found inside the church and a third was sprawled in the belfry. All bore bullet wounds.

Father Nacorda said the body in front of the church was that of church worker Robert Moreno, who was shot by the Abu Sayyaf.

In some houses, drawers had been ransacked. The remains of a meal of rice and sardines, abandoned by a panic-stricken family, were on a table in one house.

The town's baker wandered through the streets on Sunday, asking soldiers who would pay for his losses.

"I have lost my bakery shop. What will happen to me?" he asked reporters.

'Apprehension'

Akbar blamed the government for the escape. He said he had warned the military Saturday that the Abu Sayyaf would stage an escape, based on his own experience as a former rebel.

"But they said, 'How can they escape when they are surrounded?'" Akbar said in a radio interview. "I did not answer back."

Most residents still in Lamitan yesterday supported the military but criticized its tactics. Some said the soldiers left the back of the hospital and church compound unguarded, giving the rebels an opportunity to escape.

"Lamitan has returned to normalcy although, understandably, there is still apprehension among the people," Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes told reporters after visiting the town.

The apprehension sprang both from fear that the kidnappers might return or that they might be caught in the crossfire between the Abu Sayyaf and government forces.

The same fear has spread to the provincial capital of Isabela, 20 km to the west.

"People here are afraid to go out into the streets because this might be the next town the Abu Sayyaf attacks," an Isabela woman, who refused to give her name, told Reuters.

Names

Some of those killed have been identified as Lt. Col. Fernando Bahid, Lt. Kenneth Bulong, T/Sgt. Enrique Manuel, Nestor Altona, Rafael Manuel Jr., a civilian volunteer organization member who served as bodyguard of Lamitan parish priest Nacorda, Nacorda's driver Titing Gado and bodyguard Jerry Londo, and militiaman Antonio Guerrero.

Among those wounded were civilians Jose Salvador, Joey Wong, Martin Rafael Falcasantos, Constancia Grado, Martin Nabe, Anthony Carpio, Hadja Janella and Asalun Tagaya.

The wounded government troopers included SPO1 Alfredo Cuevas, Sgt. Maxi Araham and Pfcs. Edwin Espiritu, Onofre Albuena, Orlando Omero, Randel Senio, Jose del Rosario, Ferdinand Valencia, Reynaldo Hisona, Ruel Paculba, Lacson Santiago, Onofre Lageri, and two others identified only as Dequillo and Obendencia.

"The President has instructed that the hot pursuit operations will continue, being guided of course by the principle that the safety of the hostages will remain very paramount," Defense Secretary Reyes said at a press briefing at the Southern Command headquarters in Zamboanga City.

Reyes said the government would repair the St. Peter's church and the hospital. ***With reports from Reuters, AFP, AP; and Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Comelec expects canvass end today

(From page A1)

this week after the COCs from Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao had been canvassed. There are 724,417 registered voters in the two provinces.

Invitations to top-ranking candidates to attend the proclamation ceremony had already been prepared, it was learned.

"The ideal is to have all of them proclaimed at the same time, but we will see," Benipayo said after the suspension of the canvassing before the weekend.

Benipayo had earlier set a partial proclamation on June 1, but the non-arrival of the COCs from the two provinces and opposition from lawyers of the Puwersa ng Masa (PnM) prompted the National Board of Canvassers (NBC), which he chairs, to call off the plan.

Former Immigration Commissioner Rufus Rodriguez said the NBC must first resolve two petitions, one filed by him and the other by 15th placer Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago of the PnM, opposing the partial proclamation before any such move could be taken.

As of the latest unaudited count, and with 100 out of 102 COCs canvassed, candidates occupying the top 11 positions in the Senate race are far from being dislodged from the Magic 13.

The 11th placer, former first lady Loi Ejercito of the PnM, has 849,030 votes more than 14th placer Juan Ponce Enrile, also of the PnM.

Past 16-M mark

Independent candidate Noli de Castro has already breached the 16-million mark. Eight candidates from the administration-backed People Power Coalition (PPC) and four from the PnM have been able to keep their respective positions in the Magic 13 in the last three days of the canvassing.

Rodriguez, legal counsel for Ejercito, said Enrile might still be able to dislodge 13th placer Ralph Recto of the PPC if Enrile "wins overwhelmingly" in Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao.

Reelectionist Sen. Gregorio Honasan (PnM) appears safe at No. 12 with a 747,692 lead over Enrile.

Rodriguez said it was "mathematically possible" for Enrile to enter the Magic 13 and pull down Recto to 14th place as more than 700,000 votes have yet to be canvassed. Recto leads Enrile by 682,395 votes.

Deductions of padded votes for Recto's will reduce his lead.

Rodriguez had revealed that the NBC was set to issue a resolution ordering the deduction of 9,000 more votes from Recto. These were found to have been padded in his favor in the towns of Jose Dalman, Sibutad and La Libertad in Zamboanga del Norte.

The NBC had earlier ordered a deduction of a total of 79,000 "padded" votes from Recto, which came from six other towns in Zamboanga del Norte and in all the towns of Tawi-Tawi.

Recto also lost 15,000 votes in Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat after the NBC ruled that the town's COC be excluded because of massive padding of votes.

More 'padded' votes?

Rodriguez was expected to file a petition today seeking to void 15,000 votes allegedly padded in Recto's favor in Sultan Naga Dimaporo town in Zamboanga del Norte.

Rodriguez had boldly predicted that after these votes had been deducted, and the PnM's bailiwick votes from Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao had been counted, Recto would be pushed out of the Magic 13.

But Romulo Makalintal, counsel for Recto, maintained that Recto would remain in the winning circle at the end of the canvassing. He said the "worst scenario" would be a 13th-place finish for Recto.

The canvassing of the COCs of Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao is expected to be finished today with the arrival of the municipal COCs of the two provinces at the Philippine International Convention Center.

The NBC has ordered that the canvassing of votes from the two provinces be continued at the PICC. The canvassing has not been completed due to delays caused by protests and the unstable peace and order situation.

Comelec Commissioner Mehol Sadain said the NBC had ordered that the senatorial certificates of canvass of votes (COCVs) be tallied at the PICC.

Mehol said the Comelec en banc had issued a resolution directing the transfer of the Lanao del Sur canvassing to the PICC. The order did not cover Maguindanao. ***With a report from Nash B. Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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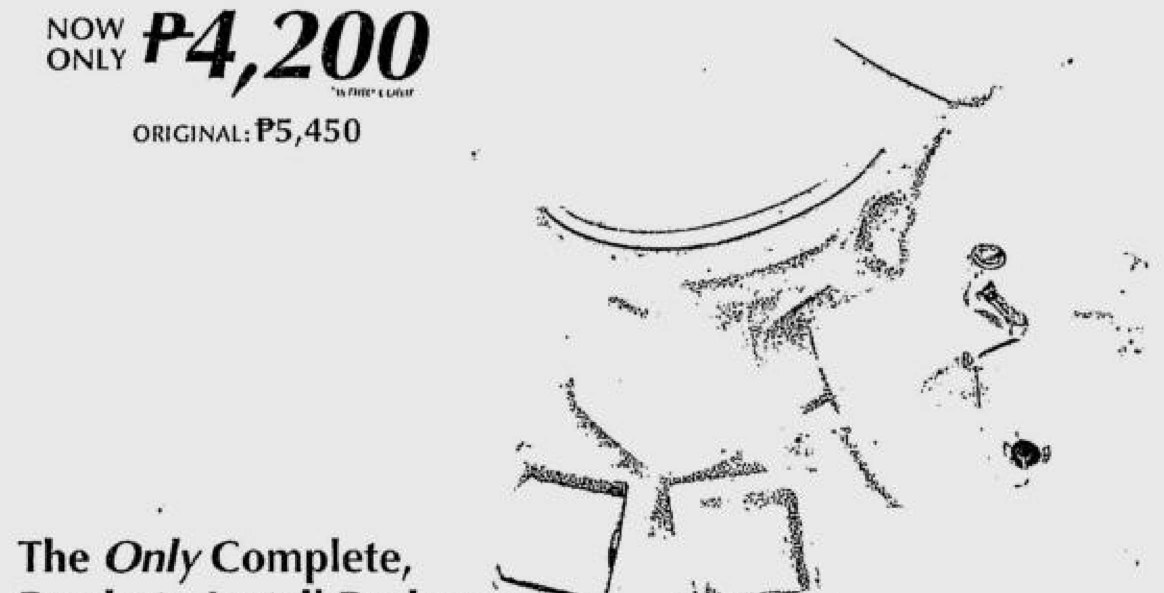

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76ers-Bucks do-or-die game today

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania—While the Los Angeles Lakers sit and wait, the Philadelphia 76ers and Milwaukee Bucks will battle Sunday night (Monday morning in Manila) in Game Seven for the right to advance to the NBA Finals.

Ray Allen scored a playoff career-high 41 points as the Bucks forced the decisive seventh game with a 110-100 victory over the Sixers Friday night in the Eastern Conference finals.

Most Valuable Player Allen Iverson had 46 points, including 26 in the fourth quarter when the Sixers staged a furious rally which fell short.

The Bucks led by 33 points early in the third quarter and 80-54 entering the final period before Iverson—shooting just 27 percent in the series—scored 19 of Philadelphia's 21 points in the first five minutes of the period, cutting the deficit to 86-75.

But Allen made two from the arc to stem the rally and tie the NBA playoff record for three-pointers in a game with nine.

The Sixers are 6-3 in the postseason at home.

It marks the third time these two franchises will meet in the seventh game of a playoff series, with the previous two decided by one point—a 99-98 win for Philadelphia in April 1981 and a 113-112 victory for Milwaukee in May 1986.

But then the cast of characters was players like Julius Erving, Maurice Cheeks, Sidney Moncrief and Terry Cummings. Now Allen, Glenn Robinson, Allen Iverson and Dikembe Mutombo are fighting for their first trip to the Finals.

So while the Lakers steamrolled through the West, it is only fitting that the Eastern Conference champion battles through a seventh game. After all, both the Sixers and Bucks—the top two seeds in the East—were stretched to the limit in the conference semi-finals.

On May 20, both teams emerged with Game Seven wins at home in the conference semi-finals. The Sixers survived with an 88-87 victory over the Toronto Raptors even though Iverson shot just 8-of-27, but handed out a career-high 16 assists.

The Sixers will be trying to reach the NBA Finals for the first time since 1983, the year of their last championship. *AP*

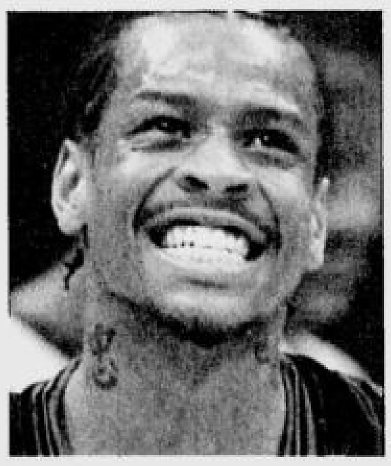
Williams out

MILWAUKEE Bucks center Scott Williams was suspended for Sunday's crucial playoff game against Philadelphia for exceeding the NBA flagrant foul limit.

Williams will not be allowed to play for the Bucks in the seventh game of the best-of-seven Eastern Conference finals in Philadelphia.

Williams was assessed a flagrant foul against Allen Iverson of the 76ers in game six on Friday.

NBA Vice President of Basketball Operations Stu Jackson reviewed the videotape and reclassified the violation as a flagrant foul. *AFP*



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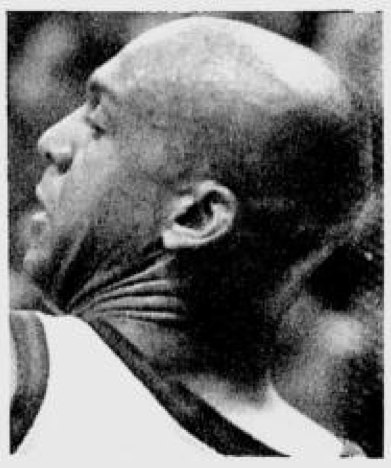


WILLIAMS

Homecourt edge for LA

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

IT'S no longer a question of whether the LA Lakers will retain their NBA crown this year. Rather, the issue is whether Phil Jackson's charges can make NBA history by blitzing through the current playoff without a single loss in 15 games.

The Lakers, whose new-found killer instinct has propelled them to an 11-0 mark through the first three rounds of the postseason, are in the midst of a nine-day rest and await their Eastern opponent in the NBA Finals, which start June 6 (June 7, Manila time) at the Staples Center.

The Philadelphia 76ers and Milwaukee Bucks clash today in the deciding Game Seven of the Eastern final duel in Philadelphia. In NBA playoff history, there have been 80 best-of-seven series that went the limit and the home team has won the staggering 66 times, an .825 success rate. The list includes this year's 76ers and Bucks, both of whom won a Game Seven in the East semifinals against Toronto and Charlotte, respectively, to arrange a conference final date.

Regardless of the outcome, the Lakers will enjoy homecourt advantage in the NBA Finals. The East champion likewise does not figure to have a chance against a team that set an NBA record for the largest average winning margin in a conference finals with its 22.3-ppg edge in a four-game sweep of the Western finals against the San Antonio Spurs.

Clearly, both the 76ers and Bucks are overmatched against the rampaging Lakers.

Milwaukee, however, could offer stiffer competition with its three-headed scoring monster of Glenn Robinson, Ray Allen and Sam Cassell. The "Big Three" may present some problems offensively but the Lakers also have stepped up their defensive intensity since the winning streak—19 games overall, including eight straight to end the regular season—began on April 3.

Azinger keeps Memorial lead

DUBLIN, Ohio—Paul Azinger couldn't finish what he started Saturday in the third round of the rain-plagued Memorial. He had to settle for something else—holding Tiger Woods off for at least another day.

Azinger made two birdies on the back nine as darkness began to set on the course to keep the same two-shot margin he began with on a day when rain delays pushed back play so much the leaders were unable to finish their rounds.

Play was suspended twice and the leaders waited four hours past their tee times to actually play as rain, hail and lightning moved across the Muirfield Village Golf Club once again.

"I'm disappointed we have to come back in the morning," Azinger said.

Azinger knocked in a 12-footer on the 13th hole to get to 11 under, two strokes ahead of Woods and Sergio Garcia, who were playing together in the group ahead. Also at 9 under was Stuart Appleby, who birdied the 15th hole before quitting for the day.

Azinger, Woods and Garcia all finished 14 holes before having to quit.

Players left on the course marked their balls and were scheduled to return at 8:30 a.m. (1230 GMT) Sunday to finish their third rounds before the final round. *AP*

Capriati surges to 4th round

S. Williams also gains; Agassi prevails

PARIS—A raw wind rattled stadium flag poles and sent clouds of red clay swirling across center court Saturday at the French Open, where fans wore overcoats and frowns. In a lousy tennis weather, Jennifer Capriati was glad to be done by noon.

With the methodical ease of a Grand Slam champion—which she became in January—Capriati moved into the fourth round by eliminating Mirjana Lucic 6-3, 6-1.

"She's a great player and is full of confidence now," Lucic said. "I would say she's pretty much the favorite here. It's really all up to her."

At the Australian Open four months ago, Capriati capped a comeback from tennis burnout and personal problems with an improbable run to the championship. Winning the French title would be less surprising but equally captivating, because Paris is where her roller-coaster Grand Slam career began.

Playing in her first major tournament at age 14, Capriati reached the French semifinals in 1990. She hasn't been back to the semis since at Roland Garros, where she won only three matches from 1994 to 2000.

Upsets and injuries have depleted the other half of the women's draw, but the No. 4-seeded Capriati still faces a tough path to the final, including possible showdowns against No. 6 Serena Williams in the quarterfinals and No. 1 Martina Hingis in the semifinals.

Williams' 6-1, 6-2 win over Zsofia Gubacsi was so routine that she spent most of a postmatch news conference discussing her addiction to online shopping.

Hingis beat Rachel McQuillan 7-5, 6-1, and was repeatedly jeered by French fans still annoyed about the tantrum she threw while losing the 1999 final to Steffi Graf.

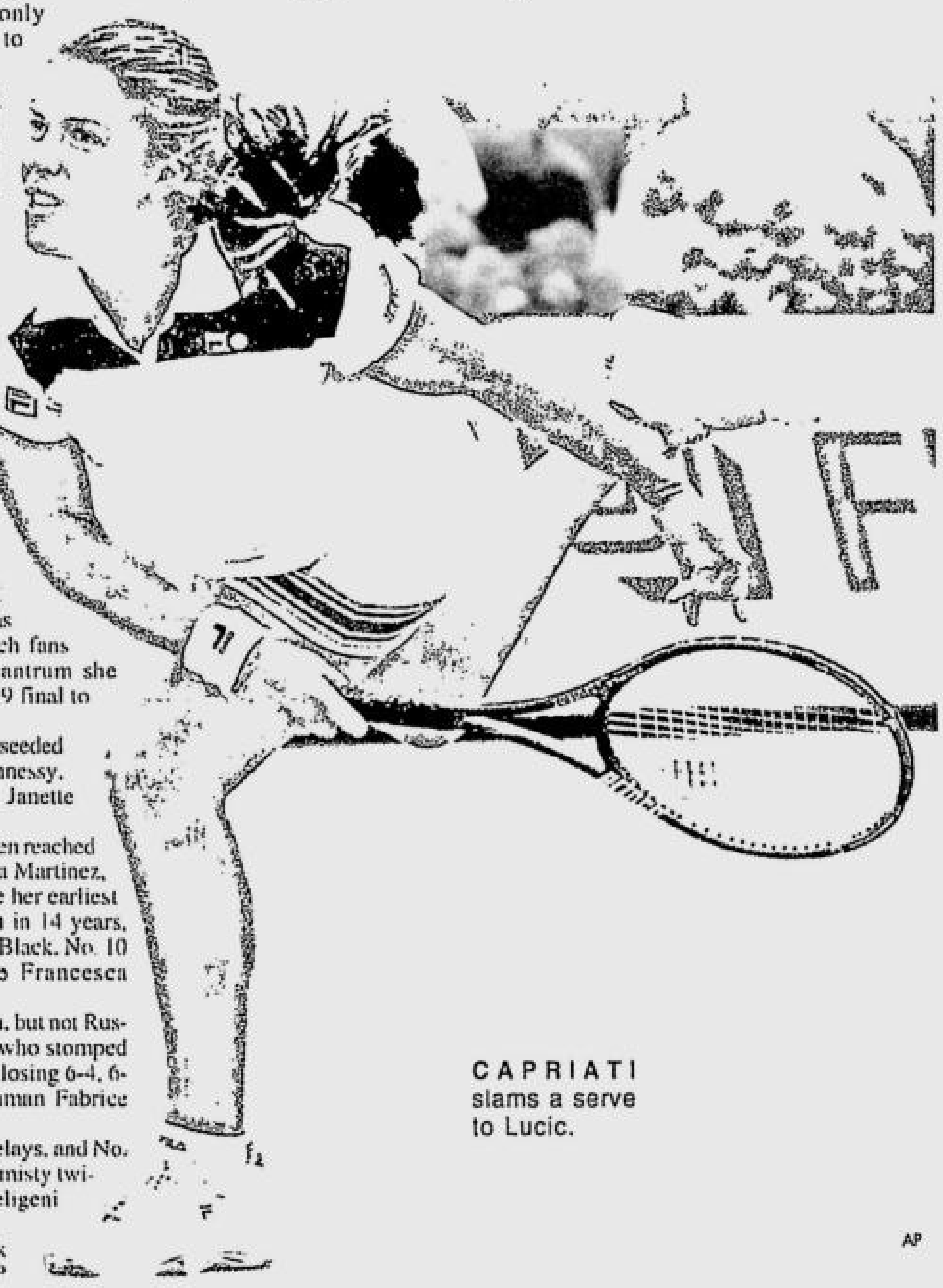
Capriati next faces 16th-seeded American Meghann Shaughnessy, who advanced by beating Janette Husarova, 7-5, 6-4.

Only seven seeded women reached the final 16. No. 8 Conchita Martinez, last year's runner-up, made her earliest exit from the French Open in 14 years, losing 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 to Cara Black. No. 10 Amanda Coetzer lost to Francesca Schiavone 7-5, 6-4.

Nine seeded men remain, but not Russian hothead Marat Safin, who stomped out of the tournament after losing 6-4, 6-4, 4-6, 0-6, 6-1 to Frenchman Fabrice Santoro.

Rain forced two brief delays, and No. 3 Andre Agassi finished in misty twilight, beating Fernando Meligeni 6-3, 2-6, 6-1, 6-3

"It was getting pretty dark out there," Agassi said. *AP*



CAPRIATI slams a serve to Lucic.

AP

La Salle subdues Ateneo

LA Salle used a 34-7 blitz in the 20-29 years class to turn back Ateneo in their annual golf dual meet at the north and south courses of the Canlubang Golf and Country Club recently.

National player Cookie LaO sparked the breakaway by leading a 1-2-3 finish for La Salle in Class A and the Green Archers went on to post a 112-102 victory, reclaiming the crown they lost last year.

Ateneo actually won four of the seven divisions but La Salle's margin in the 20-29 division was just too decisive.

Also clinching big victories for La Salle in the event sponsored by PLDT, Smart, Union Bank Visa and National Sports Grill were Tricia Maclang, JR Tanpinco, Bones Floro and Carlo Gamban.

Iggy Clavecilla, playing in the 50-59 class, romped off with the tournament's lowest gross of six-under-par 66. Other Ateneans who came away with the best gross scores in their age-groups were Kit Lopez, Mari Hechanova.

La Salle took its eighth title in 14 editions of the La Salle-Ateneo Classic against the five of their rivals. The 1987 edition ended in a rare tie.

"We just gave our best being La Sallites," said La Salle team captain Caloy Coscolluela.

La Salle also won the ladies division (9-5) and the seniors (15-7) while Ateneo clinched the 19-below through the efforts of Anthony Fernando and Asian junior champ Judson Eustaquio (9-5), the 30-39 years (22-19), the 40-49 years (28-13) and the 50-59 years (24-17).

Efren, pal pull through

EFREN Ocampo and World Health Organization official Peter King downed Expedito Lim and Moreno Estrada, 7-6 (5), 6-3, yesterday to reach the 45 and under doubles semifinals in the Philippine Seniors tennis tournament at the PCA Open indoor court.

Ocampo and King will meet PNP Superintendent Col. Julio Augusto and Maj. Paul Villanueva, who scored a 7-5, 6-4 victory over businessmen Boy Santos and Angel Bautista, 7-5, 6-4.

In the 35 and under category, Cesar Tan and Expedito Lim defeated Oliver Romero and Boy Piscos, 6-1, 6-1 to advance in the semifinals against Rudolfo Per and Noel Iglesia, 6-4, winners over Den Profeta and Royce Bun

Gaining semifinal berths in the 55 and under class were Angel Bautista and Rudy Abastillas, who beat Jun Revilla and Virgilio Fernandez, 6-3, 6-7 (7-5), and Manny Santos and Conrado Francisco, who won by default over Je Capulong and Raul Saberon.

Scheduled at 6 p.m. today is the match between Boy Santos-Angel Bautista and Ramon Marquez-Robert Kra

Alaga golfest honors Mike Arroyo

RAIN or shine, the Ateneo Law Alumni Golf Association (Alaga) will stage the First Gentleman's Alaga Golf, a fund-raising project in honor of Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, will be held tomorrow (Tuesday, June 5) at the Alabang Country Club course.

Registration and simultaneous tee-off will be from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. Interested alumni of the Ateneo Law School who have yet to register with either the Ateneo Law Alumni Foundation Inc. (Alafi) or the Alaga secretariats are enjoined to sign up and play on the day of the tournament.

Proceeds from the event will be used for specific special public service programs of the Alafi headed by CA Justice Hector Hofilena, former BSP Governor Gabby Singson, Alafi president Dondon del Castillo, the Rev. Joaquin Bernas, S.J. with Alafi trustee Ed Gaddi as tournament director.

The event has been assured of the support of All Asian Countertrade Inc.'s Michael Escaler, PLDT/Smart, the Philippine Tourism Authority, Pagcor, and the Philippine Multi-Media System together with PNCC, PNOC, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Jollibee Foods Corp., Nestle Phils., Canel Food Corp. (makers of Cinnabon, Mitsubishi Motors, Magsaysay Lines, Fortune Tobacco, Standard Chartered Bank, Pacific Cement of Jun Cortes, Auto Magic, the family of Congressman Leandro Verceles Jr., Ayala Land, the Pearl Hotel Manila, PAL, ShareXchange, Malayan Insurance, La Tondeña and San Miguel Corp among others.

Interested sponsors and alumni participants are requested to contact either Marissa of the Alafi Secretariat at 8994346 or 8994373 or the Alaga Secretariat at 8262103 or 8264205 and fax. ndo. 8261224.

2 RP karatekas join KL referees seminar

TWO karatedo instructors from the Association of the Advancement of Karatedo (AAK) left recently to attend a referees' seminar to be conducted by World Karate federation Referee Council chair Tommy Moris.

AAK Senior Instructor Richard Anthony Lim, 5th dan, and Juan Carlos Veguillas, 4th dan, are going to attend the first ever seminar on the new WKF rules of competition to be held at the Sutera Harbor Resort, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia starting today to June 10.

Developed over the last five years and approved in the last WKF Congress in Munich, the new WKF rules will be discussed in the subsequent Kobe Osaka International World Cup and Training Camp. The Training Camp consists of four days training with some of the best international instructors from the four major styles. It includes kata, kumite and self defense courses, the referees' course and the instructors' course.

Both Richard Lim and Juan Carlos Veguillas were former SEA Games Champions and National coaches. Ricky Lim was a bronze medalist in the Hiroshima Asian Games. He is the second Filipino official, after Manuel Veguillas, to acquire an international kata judge license. He is currently the Branch Chief of the Goju Kai in the Philippines. Chino Veguillas on the other hand was top eight in the World Karate Federation team kata event and is currently the Branch Chief of Shito-Kai in the Philippines.

Chess in the Olympics

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

YES, why not? But I must caution my friend, Florencio Campomanes, to remember that in Olympic sports, less is definitely more. Which means that chess, like golf, bowling and billiards, may not be admitted as new and regular events in the Games because the addition of new sports would only cause more problems for Olympic planners and organizers. I guess some people are just pulling the leg of 74-year-old Campomanes, who once served as president of the International Chess Federation.

"The Games need fewer games, not more," wrote Gerry Callaghan of "Sports Illustrated." "The truth is," he said, "the Games don't need any other new sport. The Games are already a spawling mess of buses, tickets and coxless-pairs preliminaries."

Recalling the 1996 Atlanta Centennial Games, Callaghan said, "The Atlanta Olympics were, in fact, held in 13 cities, four states and the District of Columbia. The daily list of events was longer than a James Michener novel, and the transportation schedule is more complex than the US tax code."

On record, there has been a strong universal lobby to include new sports like golf, bowling and billiards in future Olympics, but this was scuttled by the International Olympic Committee mainly because the olympic calendar is already overcrowded. The Games are literally bursting at the seams with more than 35 events in the calendar.

Billiards is played by no less than one billion people around the world while tenpin bowling boasts more than 100 million active players yet these two events are still out of the Olympics despite their impressive credentials. As a matter of fact, bowling was even held as a demonstration sport in the 1988 Seoul Olympics where our Arianne Cerdeña won the gold medal.

Months ago, when Frank Elizalde, the IOC representative to the Philippines, was asked about the chances of billiards and bowling making it to the Olympics, he said bluntly: "Not good. Forget it." Elizalde added: "It's very hard for new sports to come in at this point without removing some events from the program."

On the other hand, Celso Dayrit, president of the Philippine Olympic Committee, said he was appealing personally to IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch for the inclusion of billiards in the Olympic program. Unfortunately, after two meetings with Samaranch, one at the IOC headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland, and, more recently, at the Westin Philippine Plaza last April, nothing was heard from the POC president since then. *Ano ba talaga ang nangyari*? Is this another case of *pangakong napako*?

* * *

HORRIBLE FOUL SHOOTING. Lousy shooting from the shaded lane did Batang Red Bull in. Coach Yeng Guiao's Thunder missed 16 foul shots (15-of-31), the most by a team this season, and subsequently lost to the Alaska Aces, 81-84, in the opening game of the PBA Commissioner's Cup Saturday at the steaming hot People Center in Balanga, Bataan.

To illustrate. With 3:51 remaining and Red Bull behind by one, 76-77, Red Bull import Antonio Lang, unaccustomed to the heat, muffed four straight foul shots! Had he made just two of the foul throws, it would have given the Thunder the lead and, who knows, victory. Even then, I must commend both teams for an explosive opening-day encounter to the delight of the capacity crowd led by my longtime buddy, Gov. Ding Roman. *Mabuhay ka*, Gov!

* * *

For inquiries, call fax/phone (044) 933-1214.

NCA 7-cock derby penultimate leg up

INTERESTING fights await the fans at 5 p.m. today (Monday) in the penultimate leg of the 15-leg NCA National Cockers Association 7-Cock Derby at the Araneta Coliseum.

The blue-ribbon derby kicks off with the three-cock elimination series and winds up with the four-cock finals on Wednesday, June 6.

After 13 legs, leading the NCA cocker of the Year race are Geran of engineer Gerry Fevidal, PBRJ Binangonan of Ito Yñares and Boyboy Roa and Capital III of Alan Tan.

Also in contention are Mulawin Argem Coliseum II and III of Rep. Rudy Albano and Thunderbird-Firefly IV of Big Dome owner Jorge "Nene" Araneta. The top cocker will be known after 15 regular NCA 7-cock and two World Slasher 8-Cock Derbies, considered as the "Olympics of Cockfighting." The second leg of the foreign-flavored Slasher Cup will be held on June 18, 20 and 22.

Also in the fold are Jessie Vicen whose entry, San Rafael, emerged solo champion last Saturday, Danding Cojuangco, James Chiongbian, Thunderbird-Firefly 8 and 13 of the Firefly Group, Jima Clear Cut of Pampanga's famous Jingco and Madlambayan brothers, Winning time DVH of lawyer Rudy Salud, RT 114 Geran Mapalad of Alex Escalona, Jobo of Lito Orillaza, Binangonan Paula Talim of Marino Filart, RFP Argem Coliseum of Romy Pamatmat, San Pablo Heat of Blandy Tolentino and derby hosts Ito Yñares and Manny Kho, among others.

The 15th and last NCA 76-Cock derby will be held on Jun 11-13. It will be hosted by Ito Yñares, Boyboy Road and the NCA.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA Conference Finals, Bucks vs 76ers, Game 7 at 7:30 a.m. (r - 9 p.m.) on ESPN and 12 noon on RPN 9 (r – 5:30 p.m. on IBC 13)

This Week in the NBA at 11:30 a.m.

TENNIS: 2001 French Open - Day 8 Elimination at 5 p.m. (r - tomorrow at 1 a.m.) on SkyCable 17

GOLF: PGA Memorial Tournament Dublin, First Round at 8 a.m. (r), Final Round at 9 p.m. on Star Sports

Golfglobe 2001 at 10 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

U.S. Women's Open Golf Championship, Third Round at 1 p.m. (r) on ESPN

Negros Slashers, LBC Blades triumph

Games Wednesday
3:00 p.m.—Nueva Ecija vs San Juan
5:30 p.m.—Batangas vs Laguna

By Roy Luarca

BACOLOD CITY—The Negros Slashers are small in size, but big in heart.

Coach Robert Sison paid this compliment to his wards after they were able to thwart the Matthew Mitchell-led Cebuana Lhuillier Gems, 95-91, last night in the Metropolitan Basketball Association First Phase game here at the University of St. La Salle Gym.

Johnedel Cardel preserved the heroics of Reynel Hugnatan and Ruben dela Rosa with his clutch freethrow shooting that enabled the Slashers to repel the taller Gems in the endgame battle of attrition.

Steady and calm, Cardel canned five of the six charities granted him due to the Gems' fouling to sustain the 11-2 run Hugnatan and Dela Rosa uncorked to shatter the final deadlock at 77.

"It's really the heart of the players that gave us this win," said Sison. "They are smaller but are never afraid of their bigger rivals."

The 6-foot-6 Mitchell turned out to be difficult to stop and wound up with 20 points and 19 rebounds, but the Slashers' gang-up defense paid off as he was held to two points in the final quarter.

Negros Fil-Am Cid White got ejected with still 4 minutes and 2 seconds left for tripping Mitchell in desperation, leaving John Ferriols, Hugnatan and Leo Bat-og to tend the boards against the Gems, who exploited their size by attacking the lane repeatedly through Peter Naron and Homer Se.

The Slashers, however, countered with their patented half-court set-up plays and fastbreaks to surge ahead, 87-79, with time down to 1:20.

Earlier, the LBC Batangas Blades stepped up when the Andok's San Juan Knights offense conked out to score a come-from-behind 84-81 victory at the San Juan Gym.

The scores:

NEGROS 95—White 20, Cardel 16, Dela Rosa 14, Ferriols 10, Bat-og 8, Madrid 8, Hugnatan 6, Benedicto 5, Tierra 4, Ignacio 2, Aldeguer 2, Huelar 0.

CEBU 91—Naron 24, Mitchell 20, Se 17, Padilla 10, Solis 7, Montalbo 5, Mejia 4, Lura 2, Tagulnes 2, Yu 0, Sayon 0, Sasan 0.

Quarters: 15-22, 42-46, 65-58, 95-91.

Shell karting 5th leg Sunday

THE SHELL Super Karting Championships resume with the fifth leg on Sunday (June 10) with Jeff Cabalinan seeking his third straight win in the Formula Super A category at the Carmona racing Circuit in Cavite.

Cabalinan, who topped the third leg last April 8 and the fourth leg last May 27, is favored to extend his winning streak against Manuel Mayo, Mon Tanjuatco, Manny Sy and Pepon Marave and boost his bid for the prestigious "Karter of the Year" award.

Also favored in this prestigious series sponsored by Shell, Bridgetone, Coca-Cola, Nokia, Eastway Racing, Demvel's Enterprises and Match Box/Hot Wheels are Mike Sy, Mario Cunanan, J.P. Carino, Victor Yap, Eduardo Peña, Tyson Sy and Lorenzo Rijk.

Sy, who finally barged into the win column with a resounding victory in the fourth leg last month, is favored over Angelo Barretto, Lee Bumgarner, Bert Neuhof and Juha Roija in the Demvel's-sponsored Formula 125.

Cunanan, on the other hand, is picked over Bingo Valero, Marzo Samson, Christian Sotto and Allan Uy in the intercon class.

Cariño is also favored over Uwe Madamba and Jermy Marquez in the FSL Light; Yap is picked over Edgar Quesada and Allan Pastrana in the Kt. Heavy; Peña is tripped over Sy and Mark Bumgarner in the Jr. Kt; Sy is favored over Bumgarner and Mika Anton in the cadet 85cc; and Rijk is picked over K. Monzones and M. Stockiger in the cadet 60cc.

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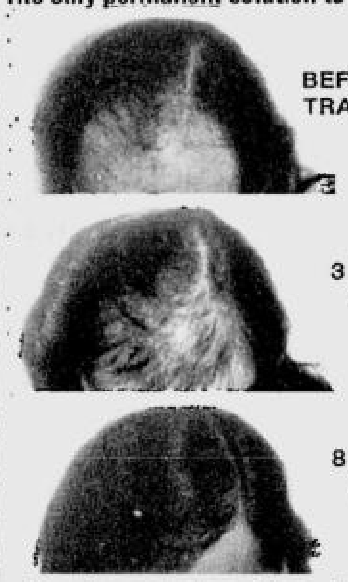

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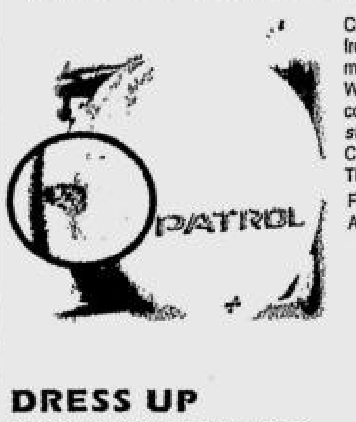

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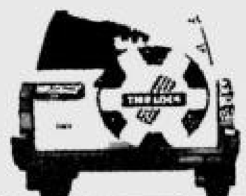

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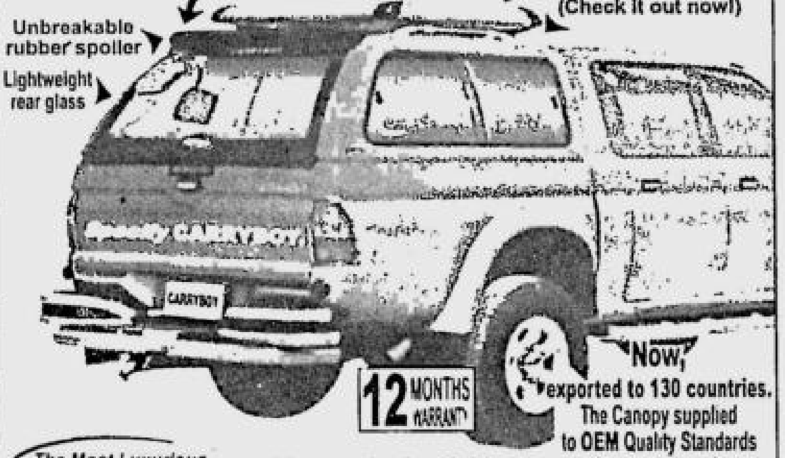

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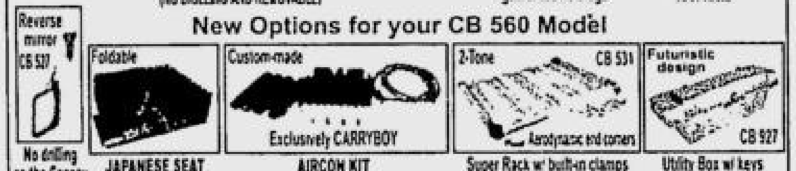

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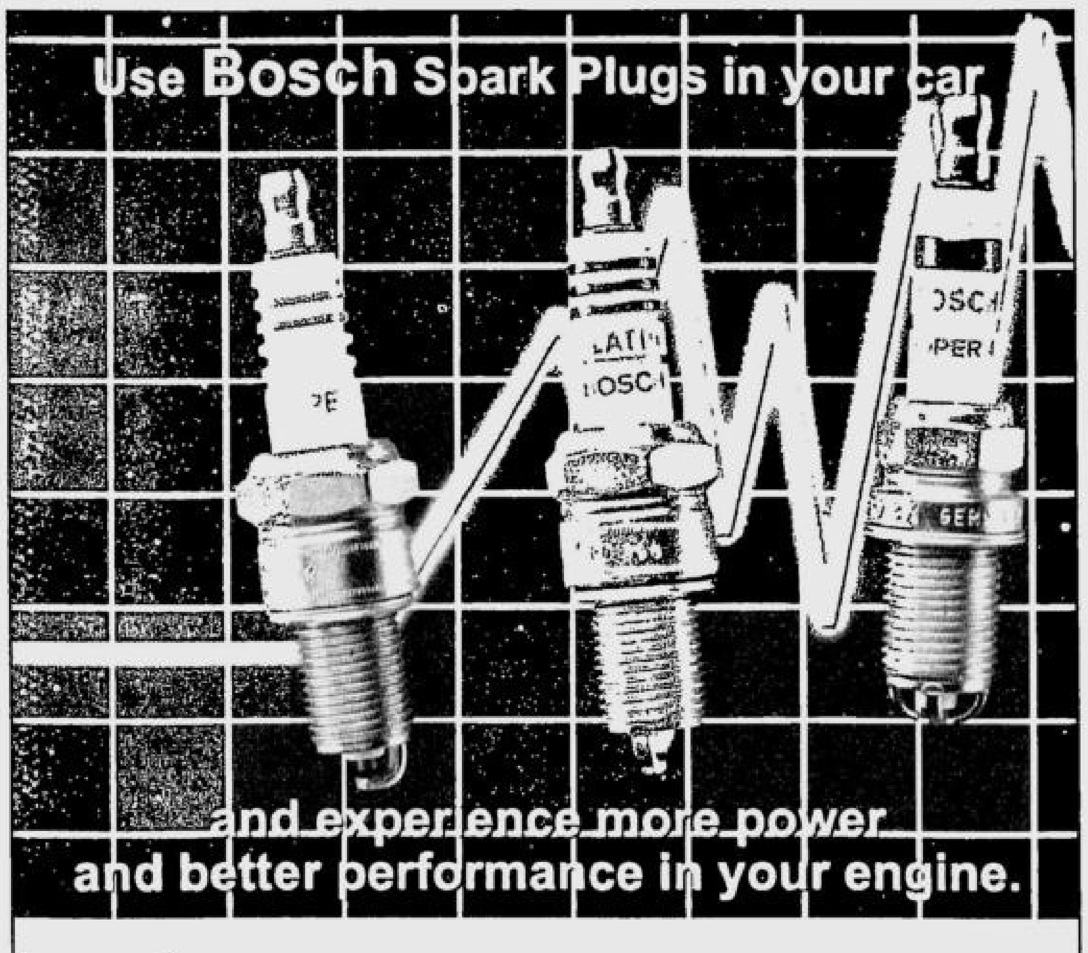
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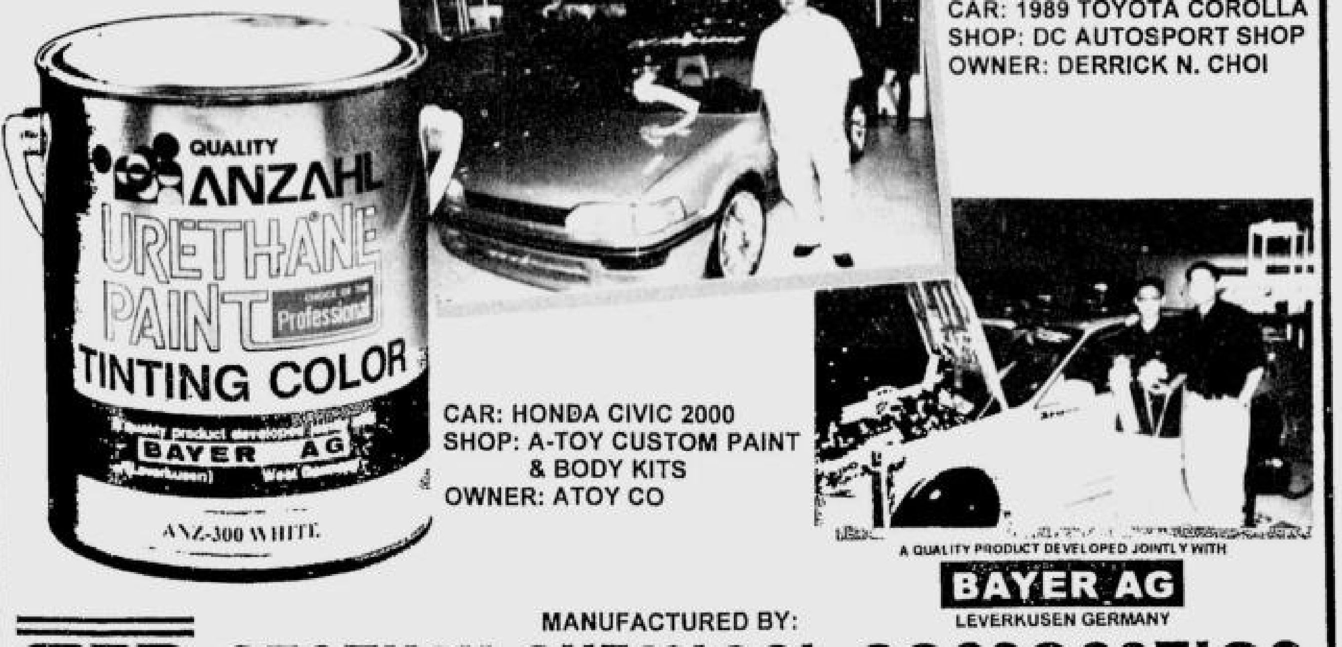

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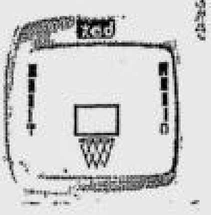
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Delasin grabs share of 17th

FIL-AMERICAN Dorothy Joy Delasin matched par 70 for the second straight day and grabbed a share of 17th place with Annika Sorenstam, Grace Park and four others going into the final round of the $2.5 million US Women's Open in Southern Pines, North Carolina.

Delasin, who started the second round in danger of missing the cut at 58th spot, hit 12 of 14 fairways and 12 of 18 greens in a solid round spiked by four birdies. She stood at 215 but was far off runaway leader Karrie Webb of Australia.

Webb, the defending champion still searching for her first win this season, primed herself up for a second Open victory after a 69 for 204, five shots ahead of Se Ri Pak who shot back into contention with a 70.

Jenny Rosales desperately tried to make a huge comeback from a disappointing 77 in the first round but fell two strokes short. Her 71-148 effort came close to the 146 second round cut.

Rosales' driving was completely off as she hit only 5 of 14 fairways. *Jong Arcano*

PBA COMMISSIONER'S CUP

Paolo lifts Sta. Lucia past Pop

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

Games Wednesday: (Philsports)
5:15 p.m.—Ginebra vs Mobiline
7:30 p.m.—Purefoods vs SMB

PAOLO Mendoza scored 16 of his 17 points in the fourth quarter to steal the spotlight from the imports and steer Sta. Lucia Realty to a 95-86 victory over Pop Cola in the PBA Commissioner's Cup last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Mendoza, last year's overall top draft pick, even scored 10 straight points in the middle of the period to help the Realtors pull away from an otherwise neck-and-neck contest.

"Coach Norman (Black) told me that if I have an open shot, I should take it," said Mendoza, who just made one free throw in the second quarter and had to sit for most part of the game because of mismatch problems with Johnny Abarrientos.

MENDOZA

So, while Donbel Belano was taking care of the backcourt most of the time having had about the same speed and agility of Abarrientos, Mendoza languished on the bench after failing to find his range in the first three quarters.

Mendoza added: "I told myself that I have to make the move and respond to the challenge."

At the start of the fourth quarter, Mendoza did just that, draining a jumper to start off the scoring binge that gave Sta. Lucia that finishing kick its returning import Ansu Sesay could not provide.

In the second game, Jouquin Hawkins got enough local support as Shell bucked the absence of Benjie Paras and Gerald Esplana to beat Tanduay, 74-67.

Scores:

SLR 95—Sesay 20, Espino 20, Mendoza 17, Aquino 17, Belano 11, Del Rosario 6, Ortiguerra 2, David 2, Tan 0, Adriano 0, Francisco 0.

POP COLA 86—Sasser 37, Juinio 15, Ballesteros 11, Hatfield 10, Antonio 5, Bolado 4, Abarrientos 2, Jose 2, Morano 0, Asaytono 0.

Quarters: 26-21, 45-42, 60-58, 95-86.

Benilde stuns UM; Assisi cagers win

BY DENNIS EROA

NCAA champion College of St. Benilde displayed nerves of steel as it stunned defending champion University of Manila, 74-66, yesterday at the start of the 2nd Asian University Basketball Championship at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Earlier, beanpole Yancy de Ocampo intercepted a crucial inbound pass as St. Francis of Assisi escaped with a 79-78 thriller over the Chinese Taipei University Sports Federation.

FEU, the newly crowned Fr. Martin's Cup champion, wasn't as lucky as it succumbed to the power and clinical plays of Beijing Shougong Industrial College, 90-79.

The drama happened only at the final buzzer when Beijing coach Lee Hong Chi refused to shake hands with the FEU coaching staff in protest over the highly physical game of the Tamaraws.

Ranidel de Ocampo, younger brother of Yancy, hardly showed the ill effects of a six-month layoff due to a heart problem when he scattered 19 points but was taken out of the court after spraining his left ankle four minutes left.

Spitfire Al Vergara, the smallest player in the Doves' roster, also sizzled as he took charge of masterminding the plays.

"The team is still trying to jell," said coach Gabby Velasco, who steered St. Francis, the reigning National Students titleholder. "I am confident that we can do better in our coming games."

Gracing the opening ceremonies were organizing committee chair Philip Ella Juico, co-chair Fernando Carrascoso, BAP president Tiny Literal, secretary general Graham Lim, Dr. E Sukarso, vice president of the AUSF and Asian basketball legend Shin Dong Pa.

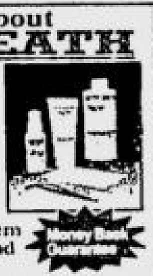
The week-long tournament is sponsored by Globe Telecom, Caltex, Century Park Hotel, Pagcor, Jollibee, PCSO, JVC, SC Johnson, San Miguel Corp., Shangri-La Restaurant, Absolute Distilled Water, Star Sports of Korea and the Philippine Sports Commission.

Scores:

ST. BENILDE 74—Salvacion 14, Diloy 13, Tolentino 8, Magsumbol 8, Capati 6, Salvador 6, Mendoza 6, Magpayo 5, C. Reyes 4, C. Reyes 2, Castro 1, Coching 1, Menor 0.

UM 66—Saquilayan 25, Ellenger 17, Tan 14, Macasa 4, Cumming 2, Aquino 2, Magallanes 1, Reyes 0, Regalada 0.

Quarters: 15-12, 40-31, 55-52, 74-65.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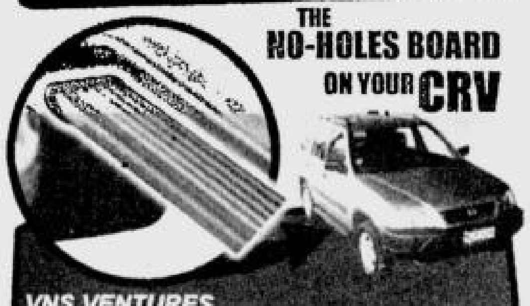
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LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Killer cop's 2nd victim dies

BY AGNES E. DONATO

ONE of two men shot last Wednesday by a Pasig City policeman died Saturday afternoon, three days after the death of the other man during a dawn extortion attempt.

Doctors at the Pasig City General Hospital declared Fernando Gilledo, 32, dead about 5 p.m. Saturday, from a single gunshot wound he sustained during the May 30 shooting.

The case investigator, PO2 Rolando Lipata, said that with Gilledo's death, he would have to file an endorsement for the Pasig City state prosecutor to change the charges of murder and frustrated murder filed against SPO1 Robert Ortiz to two counts of murder.

Ortiz allegedly also shot Gilledo's co-worker, Rodel Bacolod, 30, truck driver of the Mayukins Construction company, in the back of the head, causing the driver's instant death.

A third man, engineer Lawrence Mata, was able to escape and told investigators how Ortiz shot his two co-employees while they were kneeling with their backs to the drunken policeman.

Lipata said Gilledo was already clinically dead when he was brought to the Intensive Care Unit of the Pasig City General Hospital on Wednesday morning.

Dr. Consuelo Hernandez, who was Gilledo's attending physician, told police that the bullet got stuck in Gilledo's face and they could not operate because the victim was already too weak and might not be able to survive surgery.

After shooting Bacolod dead, Ortiz was about to shoot Gilledo when the latter turned to look at the killer policeman, according to survivor Mata. The bullet got Gilledo in the left side of the face, Mata said.

Ortiz is detained at the Pasig City Jail.

Mata told investigators that he and his two co-workers were on board a truck being driven by Bacolod and were on their way to their company in Marikina when SPO1 Ortiz, on board a police car, stopped them in Pasig about 3:30 a.m.

Mata said Ortiz, who was apparently drunk, pointed his gun at Bacolod, whom he accused of having committed a traffic violation, and asked for his driver's license.

Bacolod offered Ortiz P100 so the policeman would let them go, but Ortiz asked for P2,000, Mata said.

He said Ortiz made all three of them board the police car. In front of the Metro Manila Development Authority impounding area on Ortigas Avenue Extension, Ortiz ordered them to kneel in a row with their backs to him, Mata said.

Ortiz shot Bacolod first and then Gilledo, said Mata, adding he was able to stand and run. He said Ortiz fired at him while he was running but the policeman missed.

Mata said he hid in a lot until 7 a.m. and then he reported the shooting to police.

3 killed in violent weekend

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

A BLOODY weekend in Caloocan City and Malabon saw a man shot to death, his security guard wife seriously injured, and two young men hacked dead in separate incidents.

Danilo Parani, 34, was shot several times and stabbed by three unidentified men who barged into his house on Dulong Hernandez Street in Purok 6, Barangay Catmon, Malabon, about 11 p.m. Saturday, police said.

Parani died on the spot after he was shot in the head and left shoulder and was stabbed on the back, PO1 Reynaldo Gabatin said.

The victim's wife, Gina, 32, a security guard, was also shot in the left leg and the right hand. She is undergoing treatment at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center in Manila.

Parani and his wife were already sleeping when the armed men arrived looking for the husband, investigators learned. Only a curtain served as door of the shanty where the Paranis lived.

As the wife was approaching the makeshift door, one of the strangers drew a handgun and shot her, police said.

Parani was about to get up from bed when the armed men fired at him, too, investigators said.

One of the attackers then approached Parani and stabbed him in the back.

Three hours later, Arnold Helling, 21, was stabbed dead by two unidentified suspects on Orchid Street in Barangay Longos, also in Malabon.

Helling was stabbed in the chest and the stomach and died before he could be brought to the Malabon Municipal Hospital.

His companion, truck helper Cedric Mendoza, 25, was wounded in the left eyebrow, left forearm, and left side of the body.

Helling was on his way home, accompanied by Mendoza, when four men attacked him for still unknown reasons, PO1 Gabatin said. Helling and Mendoza had been drinking, he added.

An hour after the stabbing, a man was hacked to death while drinking with friends in Bagong Silang, Caloocan.

Raul Zinampan, 27, suffered hack wounds all over the body and died before reaching the Dr. Jose Rodriguez Memorial Hospital.

Zinampan was drinking with an Arnel Cerbito when the hacking happened, police said.

Cerbito had just urinated when he saw two men hacking Zinampan, authorities said.

Naia on double red alert

BY TJ BURGONIO

A BOMB threat from alleged international terrorists presumed sympathetic to the Abu Sayyaf bandits have prompted the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) to go on double red alert.

An alarmed Naia general manager Edgardo Manda on Saturday ordered the double red alert after receiving intelligence information that "external terrorist elements" were plotting to bomb the international airport.

Members of the Aviation Security Group, the Airport Police Department and blue guards have been posted round-the-clock in critical areas at passenger terminals 1 and 2 to further tighten security at the airport.

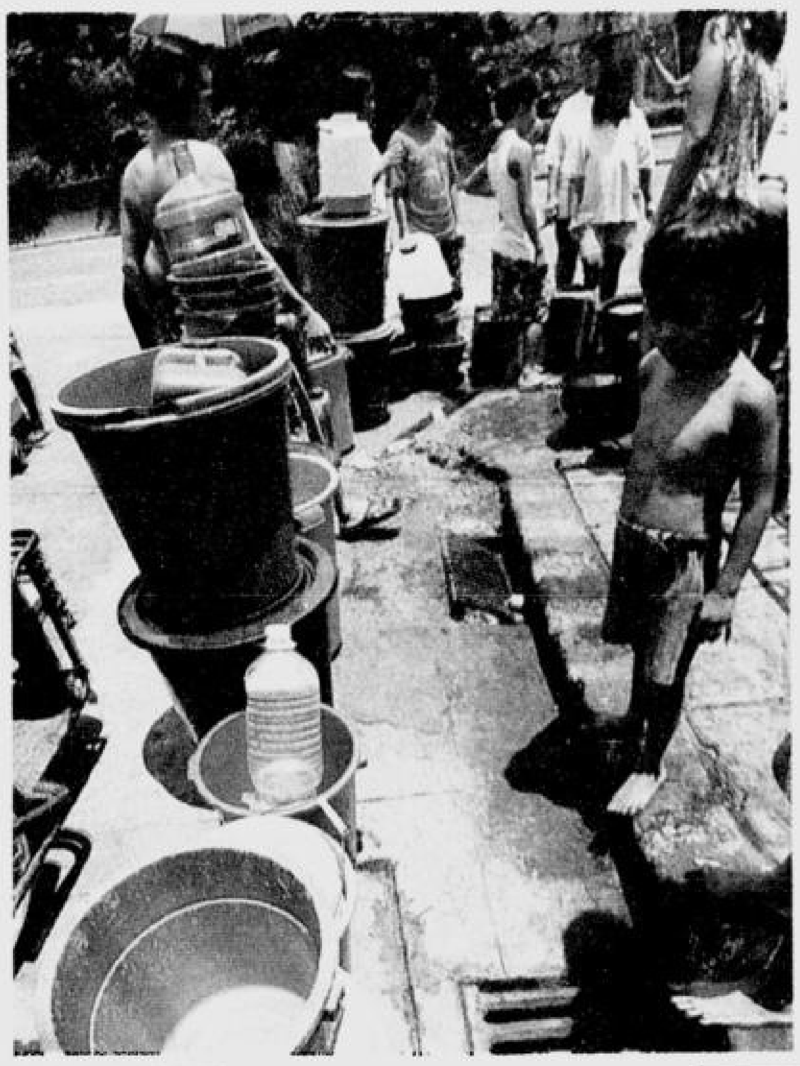
"Before, it was internal," Manda said. "Now our intelligence people are saying the threat is coming from the outside. And apparently, these are terrorists that have something to do with the Abu Sayyaf."

The information was raw, but airport authorities are apparently not taking any chances.

The airport was one of six places in Metro Manila where bombs exploded last Dec. 30, which left at least 18 people dead and many others injured.

"If we get raw information like this, we take it seriously," Manda said. "We have to make sure that the security is in place. We don't want to be caught flat-footed like those people in Dos Palmas resort in Palawan."

On May 27, heavily armed Abu Sayyaf bandits abducted three American and 17 Filipinos in a pre-dawn raid on the upscale Dos Palmas Resort off Puerto Princesa in Palawan *(See related story, A1)*.



'PILA-BALDE'

A long "pila-balde" or line of pails grows on this part of Quirino Avenue in Manila, one of many areas hit by the water service "interruption" that was due to the interconnection and valve insertion projects of Maynilad Water Services Inc. Maynilad said normal service resumed in some areas last night because the work was finished ahead of schedule. It alerted consumers to the high dose of chlorine which it injects into the network before restoring the water supply. ERIK ARAZAS

Youth cleared of youth's slay

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

A TEENAGE boy was ordered released from jail after a Malabon regional trial court cleared him of the murder of another teenage boy in a rumble last year.

Judge Emmanuel Laurea ordered the immediate release of Ryan Masangkay, 18, after the prosecution failed to establish his guilt in the killing of construction worker Francisco Duran, 16, on Jan. 26, 2000.

Court records said Duran and his friend Sandy Bulala were buying noodles in Barangay Longos, Malabon when they were allegedly attacked by Masangkay and seven other men on Jan. 26 about 9 p.m.

In his testimony, Bulala said a member of the Masangkay group took his cap as he and Duran were about to leave. When he asked for his cap back, Masangkay and his group ganged up on him and Duran, Bulala said.

Duran was stabbed several times during the rumble and died while undergoing treatment at the Caloocan General Hospital.

But Bulala failed to identify Masangkay as the one who stabbed Duran. He said he only saw Masangkay as among those who punched Duran during the rumble.

Bulala also testified that two of Masangkay's companions were carrying knives.

More traffic enforcers today

MORE traffic enforcers will be deployed today, the start of the new school year, to ensure the smooth flow of traffic.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. yesterday said the traffic enforcers would coordinate their efforts with traffic officers of the Philippine National Police and the traffic aides of local governments.

Abalos also ordered the inspection of all traffic signals, signs and other traffic devices, so that defective ones could be either fixed or replaced immediately.

He said the areas that would most likely be hit by severe traffic jams are C. M. Recto and Quezon Boulevard in Quiapo, Taft and Ayala avenues and España in Manila; Katipunan and Don Mariano Marcos Avenue in Diliman, Ramon Magsaysay Boulevard and E. Rodriguez Avenue, all in Quezon City; Zapote-Alabang Road in the cities of Muntinlupa and Las Piñas; Kalentong Street and Shaw Boulevard in Mandaluyong; and Shaw Boulevard in Pasig City.

"These areas are usually clogged with traffic, which is expected to double when students go back to school," Abalos noted.

At least two million students are expected to be back in school today, he said.

Nelson Flores

Truck crushes mother, daughter

A STOREKEEPER and her 3-year-old daughter were killed when they were run over by a trailer truck in Manila yesterday morning.

Police identified the victims as Amalia Parpiñas, 29, and her daughter Gladys, residents of Lallana Street, Tondo, Manila.

They were hit by a south-bound 14-wheeler truck driven by Israel Quiban, 25, of Muelle Industria, Binondo, Manila, according to SPO4 Leopoldo de Vera.

Amalia's husband Joel Parpiñas, 30, said his wife, daughter and himself were crossing Road 10 in the Smokey Mountain area when the accident happened.

The Parpiñases had just shopped at the nearby Macro store and were carrying grocery bags while crossing the street, SPO4 De Vera said.

They had just alighted from a passenger jeepney and were crossing the street when the Pier-bound truck hit Amalia and their daughter, Parpiñas told investigators.

Amalia died instantly as the rear tires of the truck ran over her and crushed her head, police said.

The daughter died five minutes after she was brought to Mary Johnston Hospital, De Vera said.

Driver Quiban said the truck and the jeepney from which the Parpiñases alighted had stopped at a red light and he did not notice the family crossing in front of the truck when he stepped on the gas after the green light flashed on.

The Western Police District will file against Quiban charges of reckless imprudence resulting in two counts of homicide. The driver is detained at the WPD Traffic Enforcement Office.

Christian V. Esguerra

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4	CUT AWAY
5	KAMASUTRA 2001
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7 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURN
8 (SDDS)	THE MUMMY RETURN
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3	CARTA ALAS
4	
5	

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2	ALAS DOSE
3 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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2 (DTS)	VALENTINE
3 (DOLBY)	THE MUMMY RETURN
4	CARTA ALAS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	CARTA ALAS
2	NEGLIGEE
3	ALAS DOSE
4 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545 7202

1 (DOLBY)	THE MUMMY RETURN
2	ALAS DOSE
3 (DTS)	VALENTINE
4	CARTA ALAS
5	THE POSSESSED

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

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3	ALAS DOSE

Olivarez Los Baños
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Gorgeous ...

(From page A27)

Cole and his best friend Rawlins head south of the border in search of adventure. They come across an intrepid runaway who promptly gets into trouble and disappears before he can drag Cole and Rawlins downhill. The runaway's involvement in the two Texans' lives continues in a bizarre twist later in the movie.

Meanwhile, Cole and Rawlins find work in the ranch of a stupendously wealthy man whose valuable mares cannot compare with his headstrong and beautiful daughter Alejandra. The young woman falls for the blond gringo in checkered shirts and leather boots, who is himself smitten beyond hope. They embark on an affair straight out of "Maala-ala Mo Kaya."

Tempting

For impatient spectators, this is a terribly tempting point—almost an hour-and-a-half into the movie—to walk away. Those who merely doze off are likely to wonder, once nudged back into wakefulness, if they have sleepwalked to the adjacent theater.

The story takes such a turn that the last hour seems another movie altogether—a faster-paced, more engaging one. Maybe a third movie went with the hour-and-a-half of cutaways.

Picking from the parts left behind, the most gripping is the salvaging of the runaway by the corrupt *policia*. It is better than any scene between the lovers.

This is saying a lot, since Damon and Cruz have put such fire into their onscreen romance that an off-screen alliance would still be debated in Hollywood had sparks not flown between Cruz and Nicolas Cage, too, on the set of the more recent "Captain Corelli's Mandolin."

Too long

The movie should add up to a perfect 10, by all counts, but it falls short. What happened?

Thornton gets the best out of his carefully picked and finely tuned cast. Damon and Henry Thomas rode from California to the Texas set together for 26 hours for instant bonding, and their success at it shows.

Lucas Black as the runaway is a gem; also Ruben Blades as the rancher. Cruz, of course, is worth every one of Billy Bob's tantrums. Thornton is an Oscar-winning screenwriter for his "Sling Blade." So is Damon, for "Good will Hunting." Ted Tally, who wrote "Horses," also has an Oscar for "The Silence of the Lambs."

Did we say the movie falls "short"? It's really just too long. Good heavens, Hollywood's hour-and-a-half formula rules the collective unconscious!

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VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"THE Mummy Returns" still stars **Brendan Fraser** and **Rachel Weisz**—only this time, they're married and have a really smart son (**Freddie Boath**).

The mummy Imhotep makes a repeat appearance, this time to fight the Scorpion King. If he vanquishes the monster, Imhotep will gain control of an army and end up ruling the world.

In order to prevent this from happening, the film's heroes fight these powerful villains and their minions. Weisz is much more active here than in the first "Mummy" film, which should give women viewers a surge.

But she also faces death a number of times, and she's lucky that her son is so brainy that he figures out the ancient incantation that can bring her back to life. Can we clone this whiz kid? If we had one of him in every home, parenting would be a breeze!

Indeed, Boath is this sequel's brightest attraction, even if we know that a kid as brainy yet likable as he is couldn't possibly exist in the real world.

But the film is a fantasy-adventure tale, so anything's possible. Of course, the production's strongest suit is its special-effects wizardry, which is really spectacular. After a while, however, all that digital magic begins to look more technologically impressive than truly exciting, which is why viewers start focusing on the human factor in the production.

Fraser and Weisz are competent and work their butts off to make the movie's action scenes as dynamic as possible, but child actor Boath beats them when it comes to natural charisma and empathy.

The movie's villains are even less exciting than the adult leads, and that's bad for an action-adventure film. Imhotep and the Scorpion King may look fearsome and wield fantastic power, but most of that is all too obviously produced by the special effects, and the actors have precious little genuine sense of evil of their own to contribute.

This is particularly true of The Rock, the pro-wrestling star who plays the Scorpion King. He looks more like a lobster than a deadly scorpion in the bulky suit of claws that has been fitted onto his beefy frame, and not for one second do we feel that Fraser's life is in danger during his fight scenes with this chunky crustacean.

So, enjoy "The Mummy Returns" for the familiar pleasures it offers, but don't be surprised if you also find yourself yearning for more.

TV treats

THURSDAY, June 7 at 5 p.m. on Channel V Int'l., "Plus One in Asia" features the popular boy group made up of **Jeremy Mhire, Nate Cole, Gabe Combs, Nathan Walters** and **Jason Perry**. Replays are on June 15 at 12:30 p.m., June 24 at 2:30 p.m., and June 30 at 4:30 p.m.

Plus One's hits include "Last Flight Out," "Here in My Heart," "I Will Rescue You" and "Soul Tattoo."

At 7 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, witness the inspiring tale of a teenager's ultimate quest for life in the inspiring program "Lionheart." (Replay is on June 8 at 5 a.m.).

On Oct. 31, 1999, **Jesse Martin**, in his yacht the Lionheart, became the youngest person to sail solo, nonstop and unassisted, around the world. He was only 18 years old! After 50,000 kms and 328 days at sea, he returned home to Port Phillip Bay and was given a hero's welcome by over 20,000 people.

At 9:30 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel; "African Ascent" takes viewers to the majestic volcanic spires of the Mandara mountains at the northwest border of Cameroon in Central Africa.

Explorer **Mark Synott** returns with **Ed February** and **Andrew de Klerk**, South Africa's famous climbing duo, to lay the first routes ever up these challenging rock faces. In the process, they'll map the peaks by paragliding.

At 10 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, "The Whale Shark Hunters" is a dramatic look at the people who make their living hunting the ocean's most awesome creatures. **Erin N. Calmes'** filmmaking efforts in this regard lead to legislation that outlaws the killing of whole sharks in the Philippines.

Later, Calmes is joined by **William Shatner** in Baja California, Mexico, where they search for and swim with whale sharks.

'ALL THE PRETTY HORSES'

Gorgeous looking, but too long

BY EMMIE G. VELARDE

REVIEW

BILLY Bob Thornton's "All the Pretty Horses" is labeled an art film in Manila. This translates to limited exhibition, consistent with the director's struggle against Columbia and Miramax bosses over his $49-million dream project.

Thornton's troubles started with casting after the leads Matt Damon and Henry Thomas. The execs wanted Natalie Portman, not Penelope Cruz, in the role of the reckless and fiery Alejandra. Thornton got his way by walking out twice and stubbornly chanting, "She ain't Mexican" in response to every studio suggestion hence.

Then he delivered a four-hour director's cut, which gave the bosses another reason to rage.

But this only met with equal rage, as the frustrated director demanded, "Why buy this book (the prize-winner by famous recluse Cormac McCarthy) if all they want is an hour-and-a-half chase movie?"

So Billy Bob had to whittle down his film—about two-and-a-half hours. In an interview, he said, "I pray to God audiences will sit with this movie and get inside it, because that's what you have to do with it."

Long

That's just to give an idea what you're walking into, for P90. The movie is quite long, but you would not mind if you're claustrophobic; the locations are vast enough to cure such a condition.

Rabid Matt Damon loyalists would likewise be exultant. He hogs almost every frame, 90 percent in extreme close-ups! Among the cast it's clearly a race between Damon and Cruz for Thornton's affection.

But even they only run second to the landscape and the horses. The views (Texas and New Mexico) are some of the best photographed for a movie, with a story set in 1949, exactly four decades before the narratives of "Traffic" and "The Mexican." Thus there's still a lot of green, running streams, and cattle farms; and the culture of corruption is still rather young.

There really is a connection between people and the environment. Pretty horses? Only the least of them. The rest are splendid.

Bizarre

First time I laid eyes on Matt Damon, he was a newly recruited "bluecoat" riding through the Wild West alongside Jason Patric, chasing the outlaw Geronimo in "An American Legend." After playing such other benchmark roles as Will Hunting and the talented Mr. Ripley, Damon does some serious horseback riding once more in "Horses," galloping across the same sweeping desert landscape.

That the horses and the sights are gorgeous cannot be over-emphasized (Thornton is an avowed cowboy culturist)—or that Damon still looks every inch the junior officer of that 1993 Geronimo movie, the better to portray wounded Texan idealist John Grady Cole.

GORGEOUS/ A26

"HEAD Over Heels," starring Freddie Prinze Jr. and Monica Potter, takes place in the world of fashion and foul play, where the real crime is wearing the wrong thing or chasing the wrong guy. United International Pictures and Piattos Nacho Pizza will hold the Universal Pictures movie's gala premiere tonight at 7 p.m. at Cinema 1 of SM Centerpoint in Sta. Mesa, Manila.

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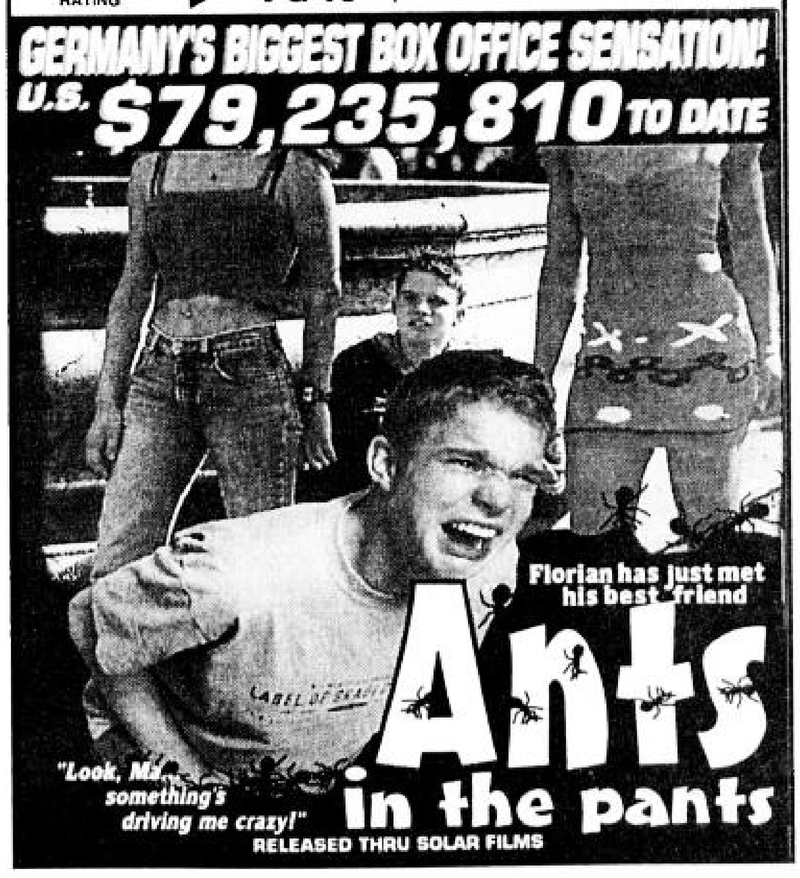

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The joys of having Josh

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

TODAY my son turns 6.

Single parenthood is a joyful, sometimes frightening, odyssey. The responsibility of **Josh**'s upbringing is predominantly mine. This means I get to hog the happy moments, like a hug and a goodnight kiss and the smile that brightens his face and makes his eyes dance when I say, "I love only Joshua" and he replies, "I love you, Mama."

But it also means I'm the only one around when he's burning up with a fever, when he has to be sedated before a molar extraction, and when his foot needs stitches because of a deep wound caused by broken glass.

He's the cuddliest roommate, the easiest date to please when it comes to eating out. He's now an eager companion to Mass, although he's a bit noisy and is sometimes impatient. No need for an alarm clock because when it's my time to wake up, he instinctively knows to turn off the aircon and to scream, "*Ate* Mel, coffee for Mama."

And he's the only one I know who joyfully kisses the TV screen when he sees my face come on the air.

I was so scared and unsure when I found out he was on his way. His delivery was one of my greatest physical and emotional challenges.

But on the days and nights when he's visiting his dad, or when he's playing with Julia, his best friend in our townhouse complex, at the girl's home, our home feels so quiet and so empty.

"Until you have children, you won't know the depth of your capacity to love." I read this statement recently, and because I have Josh in my life I know and I continue to experience the truth in that statement.

In a perfect world, Josh would share a home with both his mom and dad. I wouldn't be scared that my having such a strong personality and my being the primary influence in his life would be detrimental to his overall growth.

Just the other day while I was being made up for an on-location shoot, Josh grabbed several of my lipsticks. When my *yaya* tried to stop him and practically had to wrestle the lipstick out of his hand, he threw a tantrum and started crying saying, "I want the lipstick."

To pacify him, I gave him a tube of Chapstick. He said, "*Walang* color, *ayoko.* I want red." He ended up trying to punch *yaya* Mida.

In a way, I heaved a sigh of relief that my son vents out his anger by shoving, punching or biting. Decidedly very masculine actions. Yet my son's exposure is limited to what I do, and what he sees me do, day in, day out. There's no dad around for him to see shaving, no basketball to dribble or golf clubs to swing for him to foster a desire to engage in sports activities other than swimming, and no big male sneakers or boots for him to step into.

He has a mom who uses all beauty products available, constantly rearranges her clothes, reads every single fashion magazine, pores over cookbooks and stays glued to all the cooking shows of the "Lifestyle" network, relaxes by slaving in front of the hot stove, and listens to mushy love songs and boy bands. At most, he spends a couple of nights a month with his dad. That's really not enough time for him to have a dominant male figure to emulate.

I know now that Josh is missing out on so much. I couldn't understand before the whole US brouhaha regarding then Vice President **Dan Quayle**'s comments chastizing the television character "Murphy Brown" for "choosing single parenthood as a lifestyle choice, and mocking conservative family values." Those words sounded so bigoted and condescending. And it seemed foolish for him to be focusing on a character created by the imagination of a scriptwriter.

But he knew what he was talking about. It's hard enough to be sure your efforts in rearing your child are adequate when you have a partner to share the responsibility. When you're in it alone, you can't help but sometimes feel that your child is getting a raw deal.

A child can never have enough hugs and kisses, words of encouragement, caring reminders to serve as guidance, concern about his safety, and most of all unconditional love and support.

That's why a home, regardless of how comfortable it is, isn't complete if there's just a mom around. She can try her best, and she'll give it her all. In the end it's Josh who gives so much of himself because he makes do and tries to flourish when not enough is given back to him.

My sister called my attention to last week's column where I said that apart from my mom, Josh was the only one who I felt loved me unconditionally. She said shouldn't it be the other way around, that as the mother I should be the one loving unconditionally?

It goes both ways for Josh and me. He loves me, not because I'm deserving of his love. He just does. He loves me despite my shortcomings as a parent. He makes allowances for me when he knows I'm bone tired from work. He looks at me with eyes that make me feel like I'm an angelic creature.

I hope that as we both grow up, Josh's faith in me never waivers. And because of his fortitude, I'll be strong enough so that we'll evolve into all the family that he'll ever need.

'MOULIN ROUGE'

Will audiences get it?

LOS ANGELES—Tired of all the bombs in "Pearl Harbor" and overactive cadavers in "The Mummy Returns?" Then trade in that action for some art on Friday when the curtain rises across the United States on "Moulin Rouge."

The musical, starring Nicole Kidman and Ewan McGregor, is the final film in what Australian director Baz Luhrmann calls his "Red Curtain" series, which take familiar myths and retell them in a dramatically heightened fashion.

Before audiences hit the theaters, however, Luhrmann says they should know exactly what they are going to see in this modern-day "Moulin Rouge:" $50-million worth of elaborate sets, fantastic costumes and a story with dialogue culled from pop tunes by Elton John, The Beatles, U2 and Madonna.

The goal of the "Red Curtain" series, Luhrmann said, is to engage audiences and encourage them to participate in the tale.

"It's not naturalism where you sit back and (the movie) happens to you," he said in an interview. "We are saying, you've got to be involved in it and open to it."

In his first "Red Curtain" film, "Strictly Ballroom" (1992), he used the biblical tale of David and Goliath and set it in the colorful world of ballroom dancing. In "William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet" (1996), the medieval classic of forbidden love was set in modern Verona Beach with the rival Montague and Capulet families as gun-toting fashion mavens.

"Moulin Rouge" retells the Greek myth of Orpheus, who descends into hell to save his beloved Eurydice, only to lose her again. The movie sets the myth in the decadent Parisian nightclub Moulin Rouge, circa 1900, when absinthe-drinking bohemians such as Toulouse-Lautrec were frequent guests.

In this case, Orpheus is a poor writer named Christian (McGregor) who has come to Paris in a quest for love. Eurydice is Moulin Rouge chanteuse Satine (Kidman), who is adored by all men but enamored of none until she meets Christian.

The conflict is supplied by Moulin Rouge proprietor Harold Zidler (Jim Broadbent) via an introduction of Satine to "The Duke" (Richard Roxburgh), who promises her a lifetime of wealth and luxury in exchange for her love.

Their story of lost love is played out through a series of elaborate dance numbers, songs and plot twists using lyrics from a range of tunes like "Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend," "Your Song," "Pride (In The Name of Love)" and "Roxanne."

"I think the music unites us no matter what our boundaries. It transcends time and geography . . . and does have a power beyond words," Luhrmann said, adding that traditional operas in their "golden period" had the same ability to deliver a message entirely through music, elaborate staging, costumes and sets.

The question for "Moulin Rouge," however, is: Will modern movie audiences—not known for being opera lovers—get it?

"I don't expect everyone to," Luhrmann said, "because it's so new and imagined."

Old French dance standards such as the can-can are choreographed and filmed like a music video on MTV, and much of the film takes place inside Satine's dressing room, which is designed to look like a giant elephant.

Early reviews have been mixed.

Views of critics at the Cannes film festival in France, where "Moulin Rouge" premiered in May, ranged from "like the very worst Disney, only dripping in camp" (Liberation) to "a fabulous ode to the art of the show" (Le Figaro).

After a limited release in the United States, the New York Times called it "undeniably rousing, but there is not a single moment of organic excitement because Mr. Luhrmann is so busy splicing bits from other films."

The Los Angeles Times praised Kidman and McGregor for "the enthusiasm, abandon and skill they bring to their roles."

"One thing I haven't heard anybody say about this film is that it's boring," Kidman told reporters here.

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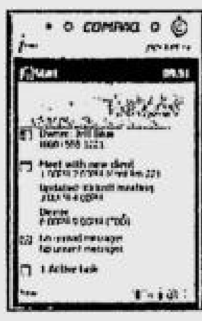

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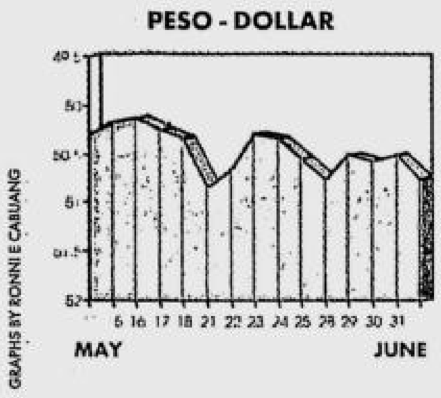


Peso-Dollar Rate

₱50.75 = $1

As of 5 p.m., June 1, 2001

¥118.78 = $1

The US dollar was trading at 118.78 as of 5 p.m., June 1, 2001

GOLD:$266.00/266.50

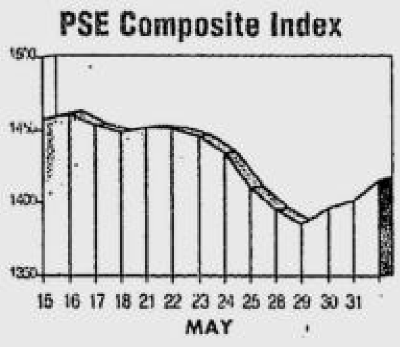
per ounce Hong Kong, June 1, 2001

June 1, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.180916	1.000000	50.4950
Japan	Yen	0.009915	0.008396	0.4240
United Kingdom	Pound	1.675130	1.418500	71.6272
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.151414	0.128217	6.4743
Switzerland	Franc	0.658185	0.557351	28.1434
Canada	Dollar	0.768225	0.650533	32.8487
Singapore	Dollar	0.652801	0.552792	27.9132
Australia	Dollar	0.597781	0.506201	25.5606
Bahrain	Dinar	3.132571	2.652661	133.9461
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.314894	0.266652	13.4646
Brunei	Dollar	0.650570	0.550903	27.8178
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000106	0.000090	0.0045
Thailand	Baht	0.026029	0.022041	1.1130
UAE	Dirham	0.321556	0.272294	13.7495
Korea	Won	0.000922	0.000781	0.0394
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.846800	42.7592
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.432962	21.8624
France	Franc	0.152450	0.129094	6.5186
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.384261	19.4033
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.061539	3.1074
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.020992	1.0600
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000437	0.0221
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.142422	7.1916
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004224	0.2133
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005089	0.2570
Luxembourg	Franc	0.024790	0.020992	1.0600
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.075214	54.2929

STOCK MARKET

Shares up



(See stock market report on Page B6)

STOCKS ended higher Friday, spurred by hopes the long-awaited power sector reform bill would finally become law next week, traders said.

However, some late profit-taking trimmed the upside, reflecting the continued short-term nature of investor behavior at present amid the gloomy macroeconomic environment.

The main index closed up 13.80 points, or 0.98 percent, at 1,416.09 points. The index hit a high of 1,424.91 during the session. Turnover reached P669.20 million, supported by a cross transaction of about P172.51 million worth of shares of C&P Homes to Ayala Land. *Reuters*

UBP profit hits P295M

UNION Bank of the Philippines, owned by the Cebu-based Aboitiz family, registered a net income of P295 million in the first four months of this year on the back of revenue growth from new businesses.

UBP chair and chief executive Justo Ortiz, during the bank's annual stockholders meeting Friday, projected that the bank would post better profits this year compared to the P830 million recorded last year.

UBP currently has about 500,000 retail customers and is among the country's top 15 banks in terms of market capitalization.

Ortiz noted that the bank's growth was still being dragged down by problems in asset quality, but the bank was planning to address this by setting aside about P300 million to bring the bank's reserve cover or provision ratio for bad loans to 100 percent.

Ortiz also said the bank was carrying out an auction program for the disposal of real and other properties owned or acquired. UBP sold over P400 million in Ropoa last year mainly through auction. *Elena R. Torrijos*

Edsamail's expansion

EDSAMAIL, the country's first free dial-up and e-mail service, has gone beyond the send-check e-mail service and has expanded to consumer data services.

It recently inked partnership contracts with Globe Telecom, IBM and Trend Micro for its expansion program.

"We are expanding from free e-mail and dial-up to a more sophisticated range of messaging products that include consumer data services, starting with prepaid Internet cards and advanced mail services," Edsamail CEO Marco Urera said.

This expanded service called MyEdsamail offers subscribers auxiliary products that complement their rapidly growing and diverse messaging needs.

Also part of its product expansion is Edsamail's managed services for messaging and storage that is seen to help accelerate the adoption of e-business solutions for large corporations as well as small and medium enterprises.

Edsamail has already signed a technology service agreement with IBM for managed messaging and storage service, while it also has forged alliances with Lotus and Iemagine for applications software.
Abigail L. Ho

Securitization seen to generate over ₱100B

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE MACAPAGAL administration has junked earlier plans to privatize the state-owned Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

Instead, an official of the Department of Finance said the government has decided to pursue the securitization of the gaming company's earnings, which is expected to raise some P100 billion in additional revenue for the government.

The original plan called for the sale of 45 percent of the government's holdings in Pagcor through an Initial Public Offering. The Investment Houses Association of the Philippines had proposed to handle the IPO.

In a recent meeting, however, officials of the DOF and Pagcor agreed to drop the privatization plan and to focus on the securitization of the company's earnings.

"In our meeting with Pagcor, we have reached a consensus that the privatization option was out of the question. However, Malacañang will have the final say on what to do with the company since a big portion of its income goes to the presidential kitty," said the finance official.

Pagcor is expected to post P16.4 billion in income this year, or 10 percent more than last year's income. The plan, according to the official, was to securitize Pagcor's earnings for the next seven years or the remaining years of its franchise. This was estimated to raise for the government about P115 billion.

The securitization option will allow the government to obtain in advance the earnings of the gaming company for the next seven years from investment banks that, in turn, may issue the bonds to raise the required funds.

The DOF official said at least three foreign investment banks have submitted proposals for the securitization of Pagcor.

Saddled by a huge budget deficit, the Macapagal administration needs the prospective income from Pagcor to help solve its fiscal problem. The budget deficit is expected to reach P145 billion this year and P120 billion next year.

CASINO Filipino Pavilion

While the government was able to contain the deficit within targets as of April, the success was attained not through improved earnings but mainly through limiting spending.

The impending privatization of National Power Corp. has put added pressure on the budget since the government would have to finance the projected stranded cost of the power firm. Stranded cost represents the gap between the projected proceeds from the sale and the huge obligation of the power firm.

"We have to look for new sources of funds to finance Napocor's liabilities and securitizing Pagcor's earnings could be one solution," said the finance official.

Aussie firm invests ₱2.7B in RP project

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

LAFAYETTE Mining Ltd. of Australia is pumping in P2.7 billion for its mining project in Rapu-Rapu island in Albay to produce copper, zinc, gold and silver products for export.

Based on its application with the Board of Investments, Lafayette—which has an 85-percent interest in the project—was projecting to churn out 35,000 tons per year of copper concentrate, 30,000 tons per year of zinc concentrate, and gold dore (a gold and silver amalgam in unrefined state).

Lafayette is shouldering the cost of exploration, development and management while its partners hold the legal title to the project area.

Lafayette Mining was incorporated in 1996 with the initial purpose of acquiring gold exploration projects in the Republic of Gabon, West Africa.

But with declining gold prices, Lafayette Mining decided to diversify. It acquired the right to earn a controlling interest in the Rapu-Rapu copper-zinc-gold-silver project in 1998.

The company described the project as an exciting find, that can be accessed through open pit mining and conventional flotation methods. The mine site's accessibility and proximity to major markets give the Rapu-Rapu project the cost advantage over its competitors.

The Rapu-Rapu polymetallic project is expected to have a potential life span of six years based on open pit mining with possibility that an additional year can be squeezed out through underground mining. The development of more minerals in the mine should further stretch the Rapu-Rapu mine's life to more than 10 years.

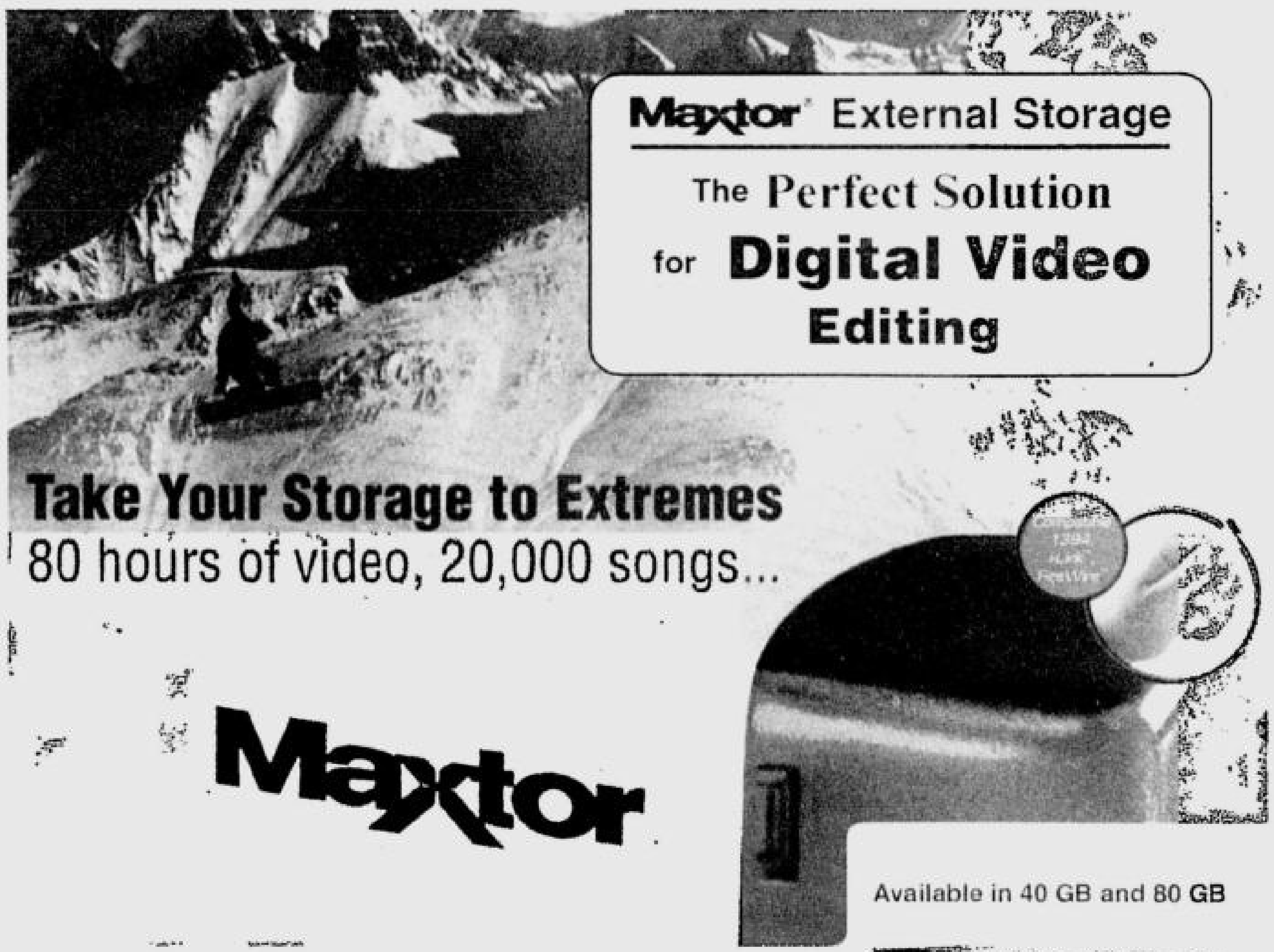
Neda OKs projects worth ₱16.5B

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority Board, chaired by President Macapagal-Arroyo, has approved P16.52-billion worth of projects in infrastructure, disaster mitigation, human development and governance

Leading the infrastructure projects is the P9-billion Philippine Ports Development Package which involves the construction, rehabilitation and expansion of port facilities This also covers the procurement of cargo handling equipment in Davao, General Santos, Zamboanga and Iloilo

Also approved were the P2.96-billion Austrian-assisted Bridge Replacement Project of the Department of Public Works and Highways, which involves the construction and replacement of 124 temporary and weakened bridges; and the P2.17-billion 40-megawatt Wind Power Plant (Phase I), a "least-cost option" to diesel because of the high cost of fuel.

To address disasters and calamities, the Emergency Network Philippines Projects was also given the go-ahead signal by the Neda board. The P1.09-billion project will include the provision and establishment of a nationwide integrated government communication and relay system for emergency situations such as crimes and calamities, dissemination of vital weather information, forecasts and alert/warnings also forms part of the project.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EO on gov't guarantee readied

By Clarissa S. Batino

MALACAÑANG is expected to issue this month an executive order requiring private and state-owned companies seeking government guarantee on loans and other transactions to secure prior Department of Finance approval.

DOF Assistant Secretary Noel Bunoan said the department was preparing the draft of the EO for Malacañang approval. The proposed directive, he said, was meant to reduce the risk (arising from private and public companies' projects) absorbed by the government and thereby ease the pressure on the budget.

Bunoan said the new EO would ensure that the DOF would not merely "rubber stamp" or sign any agreement that will commit the government into paying contingent liabilities and absorbing risks arising from the transactions concerned.

Under the present system, projects seeking government guarantees were already approved by certain government agencies before reaching the DOF.

This practice was blamed for the huge repayment burden absorbed by the government from loans and other transactions guaranteed earlier. "This is why the government had to pay P12 billion this year in contingent liabilities," Bunoan said.

This year, for instance, the government was forced to settle P3.43 billion of Metro Rail Transit Corp.'s maturing obligation. This, after the government agreed to guarantee a 15-percent return-on-equity to the project proponent and a ridership of 400,000 a year.

This means that if the return-on-equity or the ridership would fall below what had been committed to by the government, the state will pay the difference.

This is similar to the take-or-pay arrangement entered into by the National Power Corp. with several independent power producers. Under the agreement, Napocor guarantees to absorb specific volume of power supply from the IPPs and pay the full amount whether or not the full volume was absorbed.

Bunoan said the Macapagal administration wanted to spare itself from incurring additional debts arising from these arrangements.

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IT_INTL@yahoogroups.com
David Paraiso Jr. is the Founder of IT_INTL@yahoogroups.com, a virtual community of businessmen, professionals and researchers with interests in outsourcing Information Technology (IT), eCommerce, call centers, engineering, accounting, administrative and other services to the Philippines.

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The power reform game

Questions of Policies

Honesto C. General

WHEN those in the Left pick up an issue, they can overwhelm you with their usually harsh, and always discordant and insistent voices. But, on closer look, I find their arguments usually way off base.

Take the power reform bill. One argument against the bill is that Napocor has been paying independent power producers (IPP) for electricity that is not even generated, thereby raising your monthly bill.

Napocor is paying for standby power. Today, the country uses up only 65 percent of total generating capacity. This 65 percent is supplied mainly by hydro and geothermal sources which are the cheapest. The standby 35 percent is supplied by steam and diesel electric plants, the most expensive. This is the accepted way of managing power.

Standby power is like having a small generator in your backyard ready to be switched on in case of a brownout. In between brownouts you see to it that the generator is in good repair. This costs you money. Or it is like the fire insurance on my house. I have been paying premiums since I built it 40 years ago. There has never been a fire in the house. Does this mean I have wasted 40 years of insurance premiums?

Remember the long brownouts during the Aquino administration? Because the country did not have enough generating capacity then, there were no IPPs that got paid for being idle. Would the Left prefer this?

I am sure Napocor is paying less for the standby power than if the IPPs were actually running. But I grant that the IPP contracts should be reviewed. Maybe some money can be saved. However, the review should not stand in the way of the bill's approval.

The more strident argument concerns Napocor's huge debt of over $6 billion, the so-called stranded costs. The generating assets to be sold come up to only $4.5 billion as computed by international appraisers. The balance will be amortized over 25 years by annual appropriations in the national budget. The Left shout, "Why should the Filipino people be made to pay for any portion of the stranded cost?"

This is like buying a house with a mortgage in it. The buyer pays the seller the difference between the agreed value of the house less the balance of the mortgage, which is then assumed by the buyer. But in the case of Napocor, the debt is bigger than the agreed value of the generating assets to be sold. So, the buyers will pay the agreed value of the assets for sale. Then Napocor will apply the proceeds to the debt.

It is true that the Filipino people will wind up paying for the balance. But, who else will pay for it? Napocor debts are guaranteed by the national government. And where is the government going to get the money except from the people.

How the huge debt piled up is an entirely different matter (which probably should be looked into), but it need not stand in the way of the bill's approval.

The bill seeks to restructure the power industry. The generating plants (except the hydroelectric plants such as those along Agus River and at the foot of Maria Cristina Falls, all in Lanao) will be sold. The transmission lines, those that bring power from, say, the Tiwi geothermal plant in Albay to Metro Manila, will be run by concessionaires. The distribution network, the lines strung along your street, including the transformers, will remain the property of the present owners. The supply, the connection from the distribution line, through the meter, and into your house, will be run separately.

The idea is to create competition, the only sure way to cut down prices. The Left, oh, well, let's call a spade a spade, the communists do not like competition. They prefer a centralized government. Look where that got all those communist countries. They are now desperately trying to establish a market economy where competition will thrive.

Napocor cannot afford to get into more debt (which will eventually be paid by the Filipino people) to build more generating plants. The 35-percent standby power will be gone in five or less years, depending on the rate of expansion of the economy. Since it takes about five years from order to commissioning of a generating plant, the time to order is now. But no foreigner will invest here on generating plants unless the power

QUESTIONS/ B6

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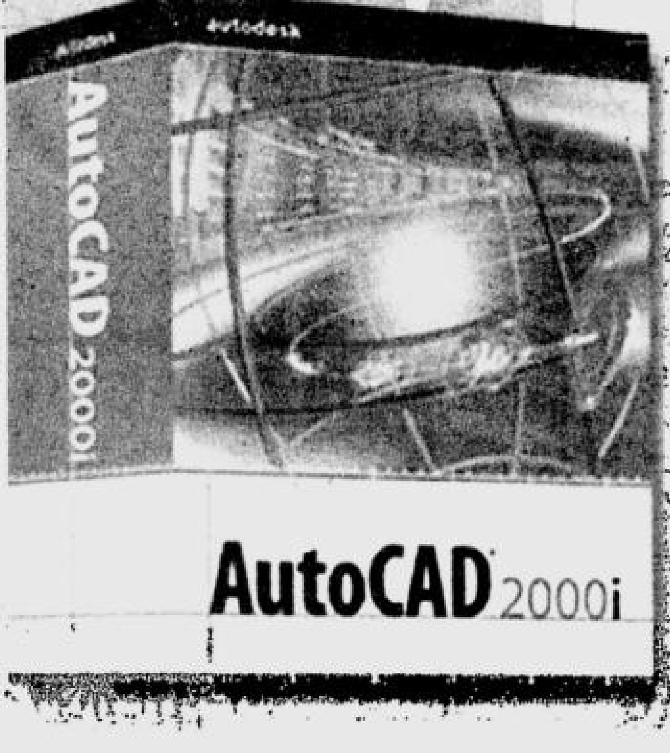

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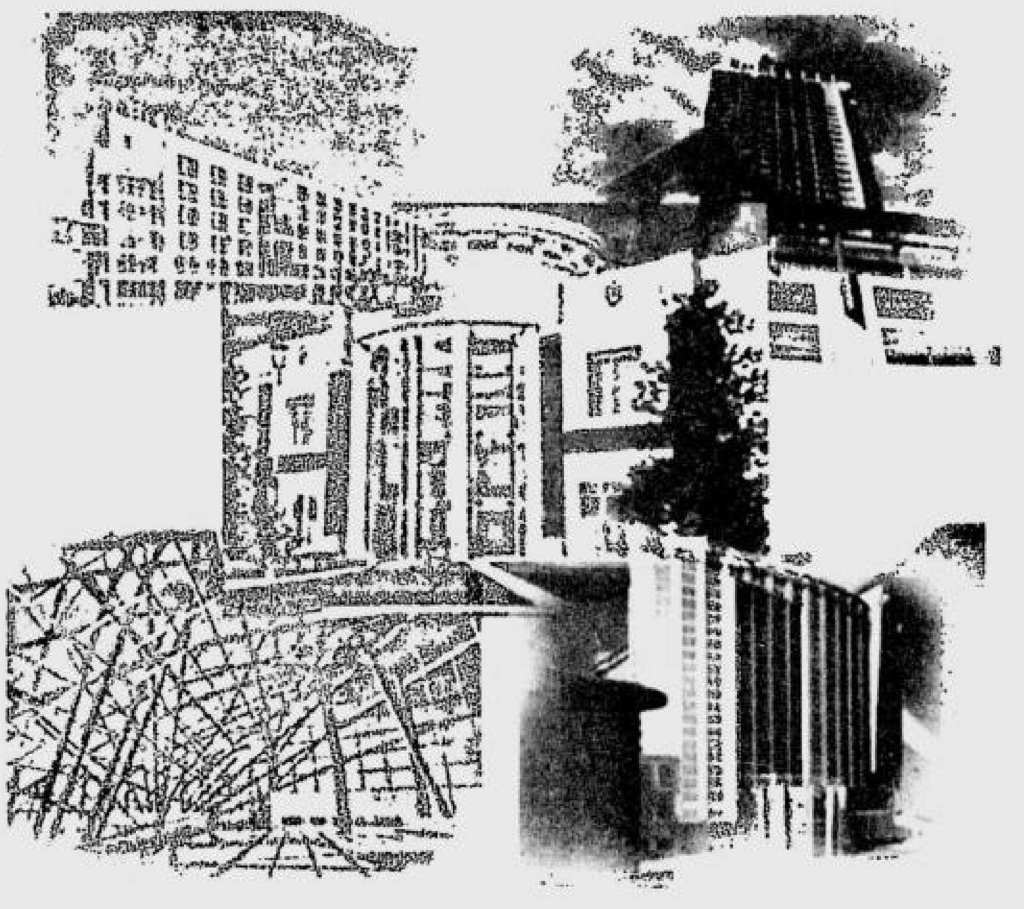

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Lifting of broker-dealer rule seen

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

COUNTING on President Macapagal-Arroyo's support, the Philippine Stock Exchange is confident it will soon get a relief from the stringent broker-dealer rule of the Securities Regulation Code.

This rule, which prohibits a broker from trading his own account, was blamed for the poor liquidity in the stock market and the closure of a number of brokerage houses.

In an interview on Saturday, PSE president Ramon T. Garcia said the PSE would start to draft a bill that will remove the restrictive provisions of the Securities Regulation Code, particularly the broker-dealer rule.

Ms Macapagal said on Friday she favored the lifting of these SRC provisions.

Garcia said the President's declaration gave PSE member-brokers renewed hopes that the SRC would be amended soon, paving the way for a healthier operating environment in the stock market.

"It may stop the spate of closures (of brokerage houses) because it will mean opening up new opportunities for the brokers to augment their income through earnings from dealer accounts," Garcia said.

Since the SRC was passed, at least 10 brokerage houses had folded up operations in the country, five of which (all foreign-owned) closed shop this year.

The PSE head said the local bourse was grateful to the President, especially because she was the first government official to react favorably to the sector's petition.

"When Congress convenes on June 7, if we can have the bill filed and if GMA would be able to help, maybe we could fast-track the amendments to the law," he said.

Garcia said the PSE was awaiting an opinion from the Department of Justice on whether it was possible for the Securities and Exchange Commission to suspend the implementation of this provision while the process of amending the law is underway.

Eagle Securities president Joseph Roxas said the lifting of the broker-dealer rule would improve the market volume and give more revenue outlets for brokerage houses. With this option, he said brokerage houses would find ways on how to keep themselves afloat instead of simply getting out of the Philippine market.

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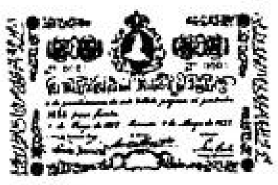
This series on Philippine Banking history is published in the business section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer in commemoration of the 150th year of the **Bank of the Philippine Islands** (BPI), formerly *El Banco Español Filipino de Isabel 2* (The Spanish Filipino Bank of Isabel II), the first bank to be established in the Philippines and Southeast Asia.

PHILIPPINE BANKING

Did you know?



... that a standardized value for the Philippine currency was begun only during the American regime?

In 1903, the United States Congress passed two laws that established a gold standard unit for the Philippine Islands, and an automatic gold exchange standard intended to maintain the parity of the silver peso with the gold standard peso. With the passage of these laws, the Philippine currency was officially pegged to the gold exchange standard.

Philippine money had different names under different regimes. Under Spain, Philippine currency was collectively called *pesos fuertes*, the Spanish term for "strong pesos." Under the American regime, Philippine money was called "Philippine Currency," although it was more popularly called "Peso Conant," after Charles Conant, the man who suggested its introduction.

150

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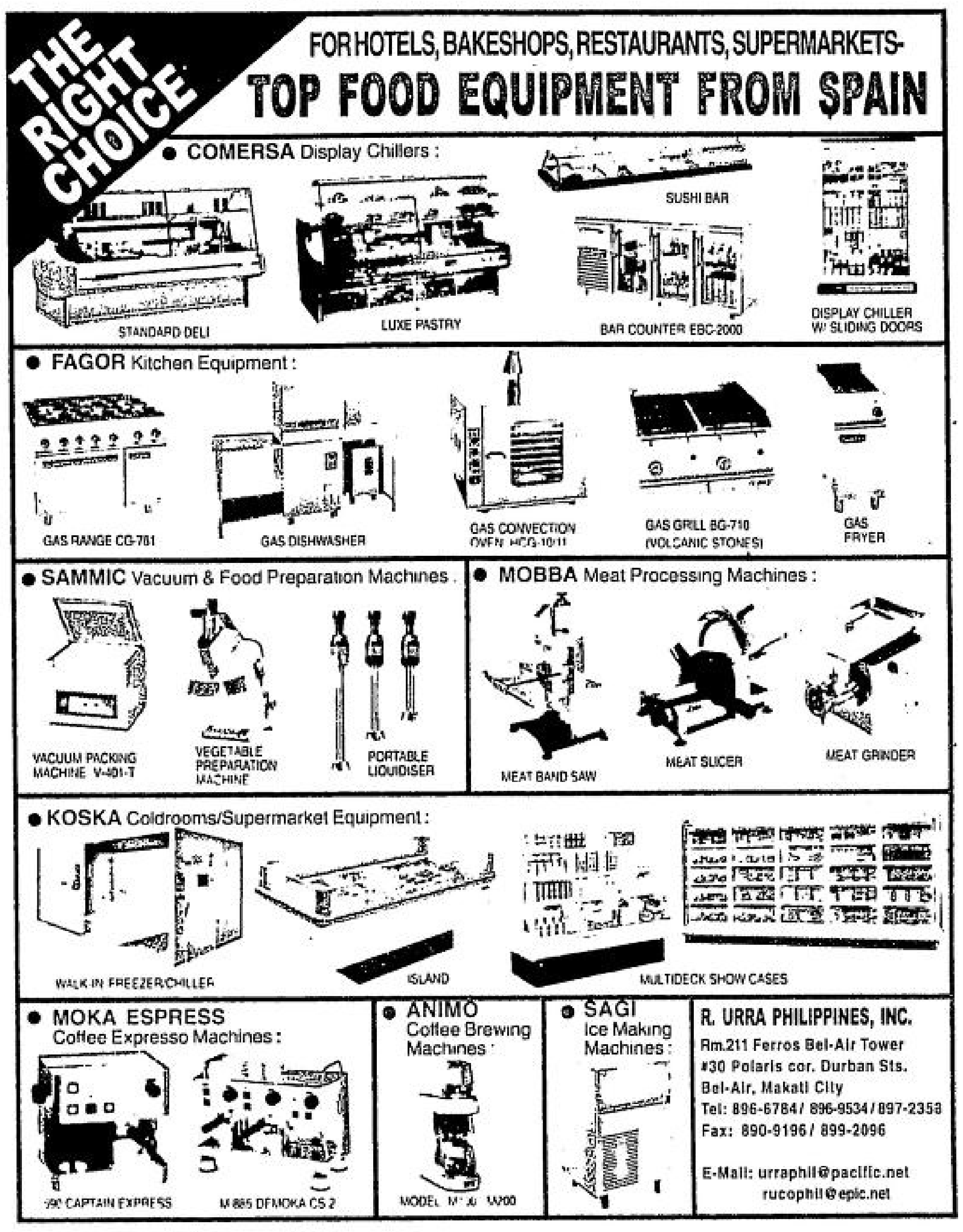

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Peza reports 20% investments hike

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINE Economic Zone Authority has reported a 20-percent jump in investments in state- and private-owned industrial estates in the first five months of the year.

The Peza data showed investments climbed to P18.619 billion during the January-May period from P15.484 billion during the same period last year.

Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said these investments were mostly expansion projects of companies currently operating in the Philippines, which reflected their continued optimism in the country's prospects.

Roxas said these companies were familiar with the Philippines and were unlikely to be swayed by political or terrorist attacks or affected by weak markets abroad.

The trade secretary met members of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Cebu last week as part of the government's ongoing efforts to offset part of the damage caused by the string of attacks and kidnappings in some of the country's posh resorts.

He cited leading Japanese printer maker Epson, whose P469-million project to expand its inkjet production in its Lima Technology Center plant was approved by Peza late last month.

Epson's expansion project is on top of its plan to put up a new P5.4-billion plant at the Light and Industry Science Park I to produce quartz-based products for printers.

Roxas said another printer and ink cartridge maker, Lexmark, had proposed to use the Philippines as its base for its Asian expansion.

He said investors should not be overwhelmed by pessimism considering that amid the barrage of negative news, the economy remained on even keel.

Roxas noted that sales of appliances, from colored TVs to karaoke units to washing machines, were robust so far this year, indicating an improvement in income levels of more Filipinos.

He assured businessmen that the government was bent on resolving the Abu Sayyaf problem and ensuring the security of its citizens, investors and tourists. He added that the government was bent on pursuing its moves to reduce the cost of doing business in the country.

US firm sets up research hub in RP

By Abigail L. Ho

ENTERWORKS Inc., a systems integrator based in the United States, has invested 40 percent of its total research and development fund amounting to $2 million in the Philippines and has made the country its global development hub.

Enterworks chair and chief executive John Wood said he had full confidence in the Philippines despite the "uncertain political and economic environment."

An initial investment of $1 million was already made when Enterworks first set up operations here in October last year, but Wood said investments would continue to flow.

"Our ($2-million) further investment in the Philippines is the best one for us. This doesn't even include our future growth plans in the country," he said.

Enterworks executive vice president Jonathan Church, however, said the country went into a lot of research before investing in the country.

"We heard that a lot of investors were downsizing their investment because of the uncertain political and economic environment. Certain costs like electricity and telecoms are 20 to 30 times more than in the US," he said.

He said, however, these factors were offset by the country's "central location in Asia, significant growth potential, and local technology talent."

Wood related that he first heard about the Philippines when he was here for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in 1996.

"What struck me most about this country was its people. Not only are they English-speaking, but they also have a very good attitude when it comes to work," he said.

Wood's business principle had been "work hard, do well." He said he found this value deeply embedded in the Filipino workforce.

Labor here was also fairly inexpensive, costing around 30 to 50 percent lower compared with other Asian countries, according to Church.

"We get a high quality workforce for a considerably low price," he added.

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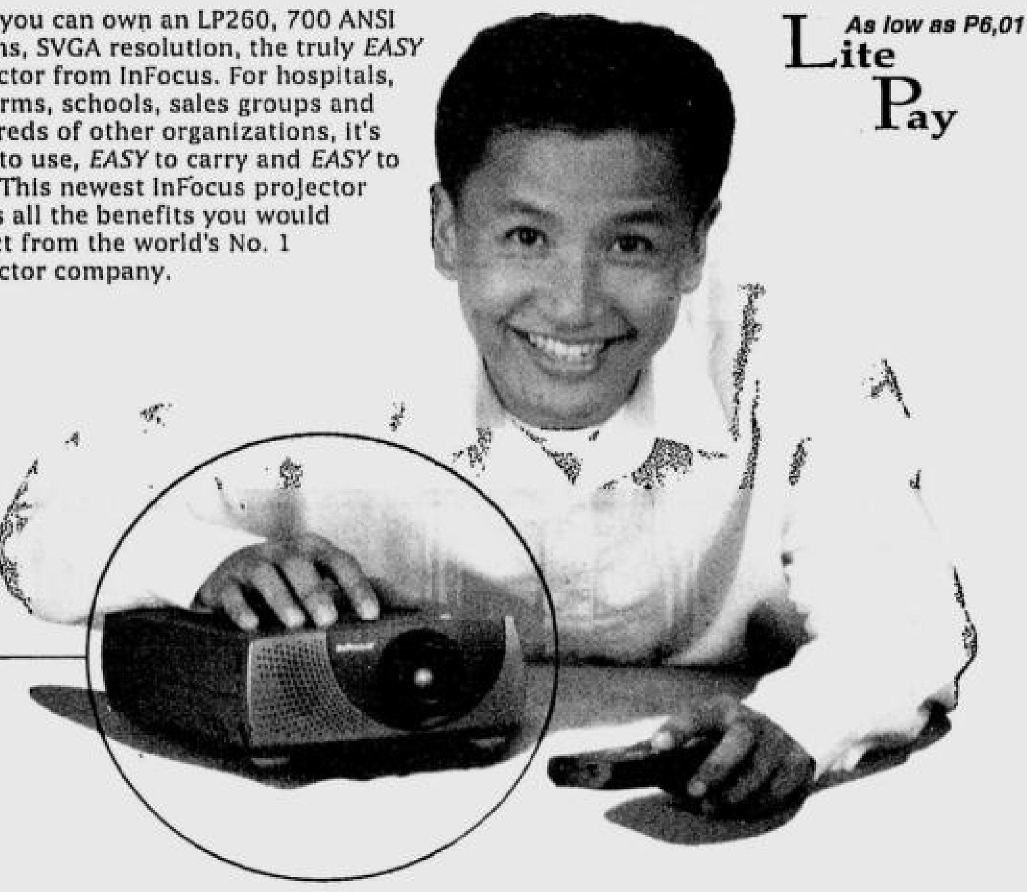

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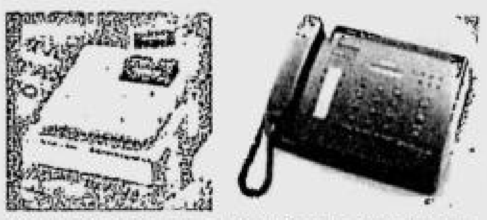

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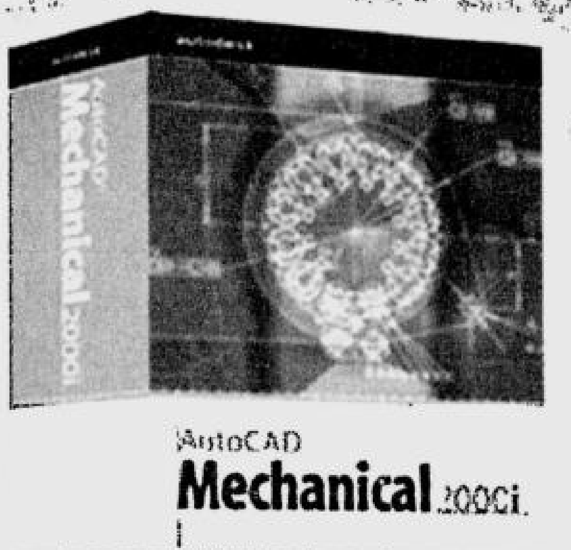

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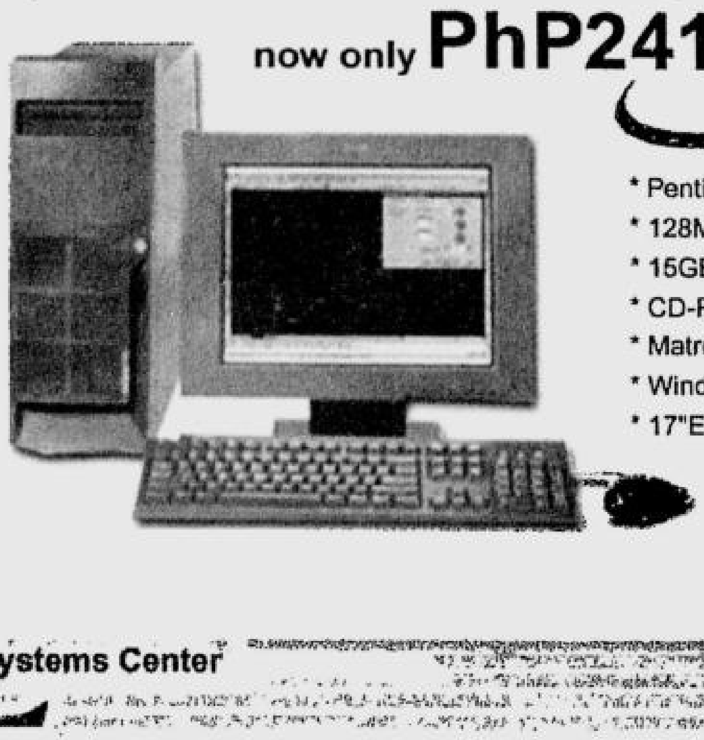

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Same old song

ON THE MONEY

John Mangun

UP, down, up, down, and the stock market is still going sideways "waiting for developments" (whatever that means). We could still drop to the 1,300 level, but I do not think that is the issue here. The real issue to consider is what, when, and how is the stock market going to go up. And what, when, and how is this economy going to grow at a rate that reflects the human potential of this country.

I get so tired of hearing comments about "The Philippines shooting itself in the foot" and "The problem with the Philippines is its Filipino-style politics." Our problems are rooted not in politics or politicians but in the economic policy that every administration has pursued in the last 15 years.

Since the overthrow of the Marcos administration, the economic policy of the Philippines has been to look outward for investments and to base our growth expectations on bringing in those investments.

Specifically we have taken two approaches. With begging bowl in hand, every administration has sought loans, grants, and giveaways, telling foreign governments and institutions that we are a reasonable credit risk (and basically nice guys) and we only need the money to sustain the economy and government while we get things going. Then we go to potential foreign investors with the inducement that we are increasing our political stability, we have an English-speaking and highly skilled workforce, and we will give incentives to those international companies that manufacture goods for export.

All post-Marcos administrations have had the same economic policy. None of these administrations has changed the basic policy. In the election campaigns, the only issue is who should sing the same old song.

But the song remains the same, only the singers change. Through four occupants of Malacañang, countless changes in the Cabinet, hundreds of faces in the legislature, it seems that no one has ever questioned the wisdom of this standard "attract the foreign investment" policy. In a sense, the policy has been successful. The problem is that it has not been effective. We have had billions of dollars of foreign investments come into the Philippines and yet this economy and its people still struggle. When is someone going to question that it has not worked for 15 years and maybe the policy should be changed.

Another mantra preached has been the creation of a level playing field for foreign investments, but the truth is that we need a level playing field for Filipino investments. For example, foreign currency loans made from Offshore Banking Units (OBU) of foreign banks are subject to a 10-percent tax. However, transactions of local Filipino banks are charged the regular corporate income tax of 32 percent. Why do foreign companies pay 10-percent transaction tax and Filipinos pay 32-percent tax? Sorry I forgot—to attract foreign investments. But the government loses P6 billion a year in tax revenue that either we have to borrow or we pay in additional taxes. In effect, Filipinos are subsidizing the foreign OBUs. What was that about a level playing field?

If the government spent as much time working on local problems with local resources as they do begging and wooing foreign investments, the Philippines would be much better off, in my opinion. Trade Secretary Mar Roxas last week lauded a foreign company that is spending for expansion that will create 525 new jobs.

For those few hundred new jobholders, it is a wonderful and important event. But let me address a problem that involves few hundred thousand people.

The copra industry in the Philippine is dead. Prices paid to the farmers are only P3 to P5 per kilo in most provinces. The government is encouraging farmers to plant other cash crops like banana and pineapple.

Great. Except these farmers are copra producers, not papaya planters. The government is encouraging the manufacturing of coco pots and other decorative novelties from the husks. I suppose that might be economically fruitful if the world's consumers suddenly decide they cannot live without a genuine Filipino rendition of a monkey made from a coconut shell. However, there might be a better solution if the government would spend time and money on a viable project.

I am indebted to Zac B. Sarian for the following information from his newspaper column "Agri-Talk."

Carlos Carpio, deputy administrator for research and development for the Philippine Coconut Authority, says that we ought to turn coconut oil into fuel.

Coco-diesel fuel combines 40 percent methyl ester made from coconut oil with 60 percent ordinary diesel. Coco-diesel has a proven track record even here in the Philippines. In the early 1990s, it was used in farm tractors. But crude oil prices were too low then to make it practical. Now, it makes a lot of sense. A few hundred thousand coconut farmers have a ready market at economically feasible prices. The diesel fuel users buy a product that is less subject to world price movement and developments. The country reduces the need to import foreign oil. We spend less money overseas. No, you're right. Much better we produce decorative coconut novelties. Or spend time trying to get foreigners to invest.

One more idea. A local company has spent 10 years researching a technology to rejuvenate our agricultural soil. The technology has been used abroad for some time. Government agencies tested the process and found that the crop yield increased by as much as 100 percent. Use this technology; in a few years, we could become net exporters of rice and corn. Further, the increase in production makes small 1000- to 2000-square-meter farms economically viable.

Now you might think this project would have priority over "building foreign investor confidence." But that would mean changing an economic policy that has not worked well. That would mean the people in charge would have to sing a new song. Maybe the new battle cry, instead of "Sobra Na, Tama Na," should be "Sakit sa Tenga."

(John Mangun can be reached at 636-1121 to 35, Fax No. 634-2349 or e-mail at johnmangun@yahoo.com.)

PLDT gets perks for ₱1.307B worth of projects

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. is spending a total of P1.307 billion to beef up the Internet services of its mobile phone subsidiary Smart Communications Inc. and put up an international call center with a major Australian communication services firm, Salmat Pty. Ltd.

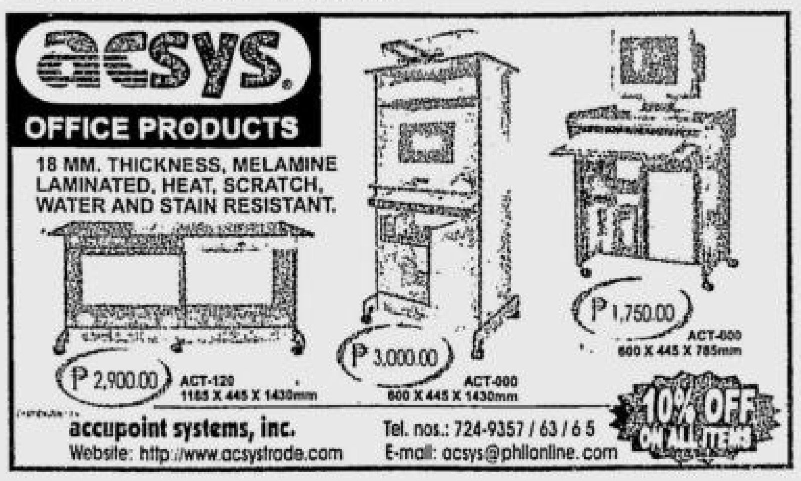
Both projects were granted pioneer incentives (including a six-year income tax break) by the Board of Investments which has lowered the minimum investment requirement for these perks to P100 million to entice more information technology projects in the country.

PLDT has programmed P636 million for capital spending to build a payment infrastructure system that would enable Filipinos to buy products or pay bills through their mobile phones.

The project, dubbed Smart Money, had a soft launching last year by tucking in a pre-paid debit card issued by First E-Bank in special SIM packs. PLDT and E-Bank are both controlled by the First Pacific group.

PLDT has allocated P461 million to purchase point of service terminals and P175 million for data center equipment. The system will have a capacity to handle up to 138 million transactions or 7 million cards a year. The project is expected to start commercial operations next month.

Aside from Smart, PLDT is also moving aggressively in teleservices with its venture with Salmat named Contact World Inc. The project will cost P671 million.



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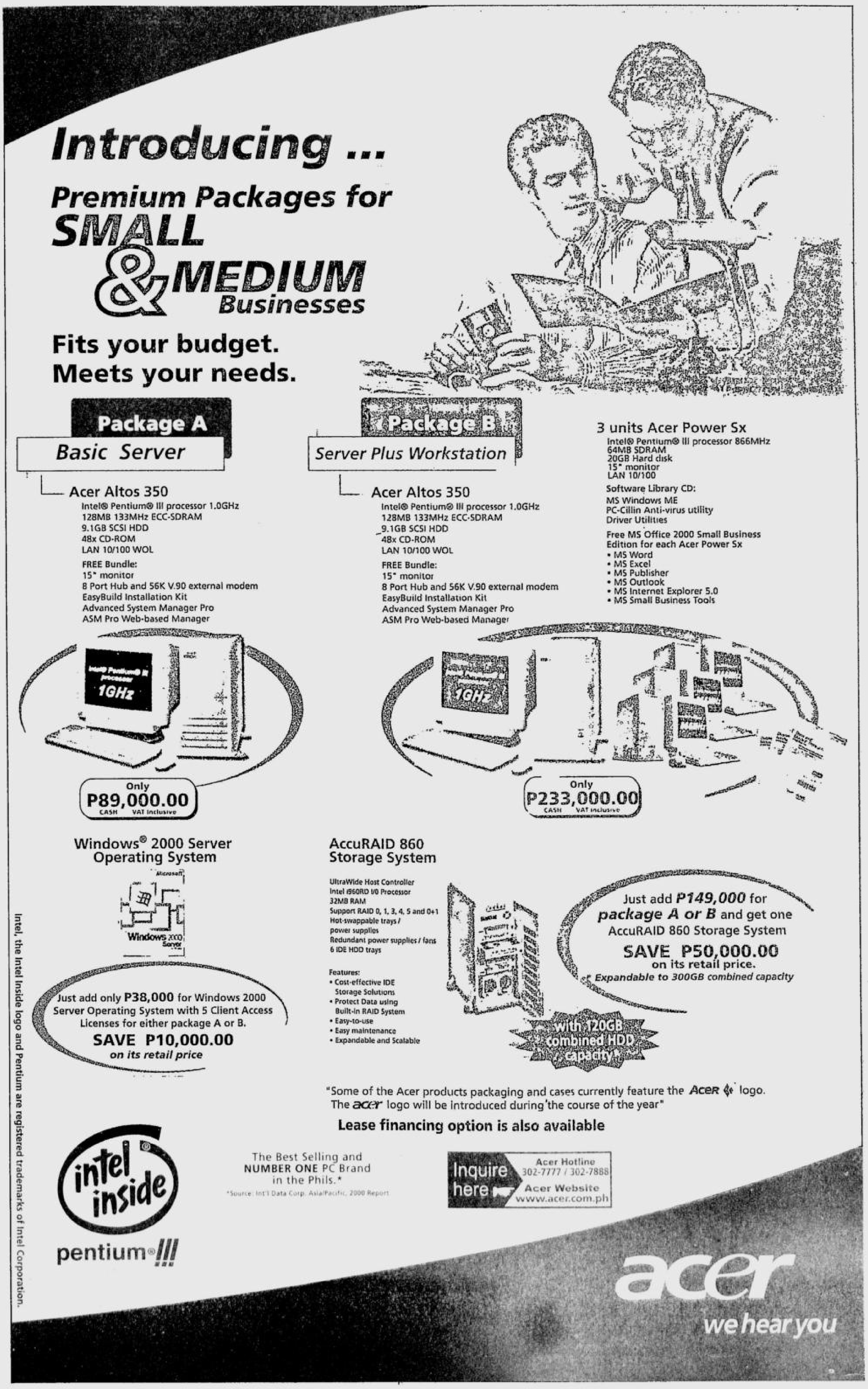

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ABS-CBN to buy back $50M worth of shares from Benpres

By DORIS C. DUMLAO

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., the Lopez group's flagship company, said Friday it would buy back shares that its parent firm, Benpres Holdings Corp., was set to unload. The company said this move should help ease Benpres' debt problems.

Benpres is set to sell an 8-percent stake in ABS-CBN, the country's No. 1 broadcasting firm. It hopes to earn some $40 million to $50 million from the sale, money that it plans to use to retire maturing debts within the next two years.

In an interview, ABS-CBN chair and chief executive Eugenio Lopez III said ABS-CBN would itself buy "some of that (8 percent)."

Analysts said ABS-CBN's plan to buy back its shares was meant to help Benpres without diluting its equity structure. It would also help ABS-CBN prop up its own share price, they said.

MARKET PLAY

Benpres is currently short on cash because of the financial problems of two of its units, Bayan Telecommunications Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc.

The debts of these two companies, mostly dollar-denominated, have ballooned because of the peso's sharp depreciation against other currencies. BayanTel owes about $500 million while Maynilad has about $800 million in debts.

Lopez earlier announced that ABS-CBN would buy back over P1 billion worth of its own shares from the open market because the company felt its share price was significantly undervalued.

"The market is not rewarding us for the kind of performance that we've had, so we're looking seriously at a stock buyback, which will benefit all the remaining stockholders. As you can see, our debt-equity is really under-leveraged. Many times, foreign investors feel that our debt-equity structure can be improved, and a significant stock buyback is one option we're seriously studying," Lopez said during ABS-CBN's stockholders' meeting.

ABS-CBN has a market capitalization of $569 million, of which around $336 million, or 59 percent, is held by its parent firm, Benpres.

Benpres will retain majority control of ABS-CBN after it unloads 8 percent of its holdings in the broadcasting firm.

Benpres is targeting to conclude a rehabilitation plan for BayanTel this year.

Lopez said any plan to pare down the telecommunication firm's debts would depend on the approval of this plan.

"It will have to be after the BayanTel restructuring. I think the restructuring is not going to drag on until next year. We have high hopes that it will be done this year," he said.

Key stock index seen firming up on power bill's approval

THE MAIN-SHARE Philippine Stock Exchange composite index is seen firming up above the psychological resistance level of 1,400 this week as sentiments improved following the approval of the power reform bill.

The recovery, however, will be fragile, analysts say, because of the hostage situation in Mindanao.

BPI Securities Corp. technical analyst Roberto Cano said the market's ability to sustain a rally above 1,400 last week was a good sign that sentiments were improving a bit.

"However, the market's rise is likely to be choppy as it tries to sift through the different noise that may be cluttering the market's outlook. We expect that the administration's coalition party will have control of Congress when it starts the new session. This means that the administration will likely get the support it needs from Congress to implement its economic agenda. The passage of the power reform bill also lends support to this view," Cano said.

"We consider the Abu Sayyaf case as a static noise in the outlook for the country," he warned, "but this issue could still cause much damage to the country's image if not handled properly. The country seems to be in a political transition and economic reforms to be implemented are likely to be felt later. We continue to recommend a slow accumulation."

"The daily MACD (moving average convergence divergence) is still bearish but indicates consolidation. Both the daily MACD and RSI (relative strengthen index) indicators show a bullish divergence which indicate strength for the market," Cano said.

AB Capital Securities Corp. analyst Jose Vistan said the key index would be entering a make or break situation this week.

"The range between its immediate support and resistance levels have already shrunk to a level that it must either break out from its intermediate downtrend channel or break down from its main 1,380 support. We sense that the market will probably breach the upper band of its downtrend channel and consolidate with an upward bias," Vistan said.

"Again, the question of sustainability will continue to be difficult to address. Its hard to make any real significance on price actions these days as things are happening in very low volume and very thin trade. Volume should pick up one way or the other," he explained.

Vistan said the approval of the power reform bill today should send good signals because it would open up a sector playing a vital part in national development.

"It secures some much needed foreign loans to finance the government's ballooning fiscal deficit. And most importantly, it will show the commitment of the present administration to structural reforms which are needed to revive the flagging economy," he said.

While the passage of the power bill would likely give the market some bit of activity, also being awaited this week was the release of the country's inflation figure for May and export data for April.

Doris C. Dumlao

Questions of Policies

(From page B5)

reform bill becomes law.

It looks like Napocor will end up with hydroelectric generating capacity only. If so, Napocor is simply going back to its original mandate when it was set up in the mid-1930s. That mandate was in line with our American colonizer's policy that, as in the United States, the government should stick to hydroelectric power only. The other methods of generating electricity—steam, diesel, geothermal, and, finally, nuclear—were to be left to the private sector to develop.

During the dictatorship, Napocor became the monopoly it is today. It is a classic example of the kind of a monstrous mess a government monopoly can turn out to be. Privatizing Napocor means getting government out of business ventures better handled by the private sector. This is the strongest reason for approving the power reform bill.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, June 1, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	77,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	75.5	76	75.5	76	113,300
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	40.5	40.5	40	40.5	30,400
First E-Bank Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	1,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	214	214	212	213	236,780
Philippine National Bank	51.5	52	51.5	52	112,500
Security Bank Corp.	20.75	21.5	20.75	21.25	45,500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	50,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1280	1305	1280	1305	3,950
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.04	6,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1050	1070	1050	1070	3,170
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	38.5	38.5	38.5	38.5	7,300
Diversified Fin. Network	8	8	8	8	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	390,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	685	685	670	670	10,630
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	100,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	10,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	25,000
Piltel	0.65	0.7	0.63	0.65	1,160,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	580,000
Philstar.Com Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	660	665	650	655	73,040
Ivantage Corp.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	90,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.041	0.041	0.04	0.041	393,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	42	43	41	41	412,900
Manila Electric Co. B	61.5	61.5	59.5	61	1,080,300
Petron Corp.	1.92	2.04	1.92	2	15,912,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	50,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	264,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.24	2.36	2.24	2.34	11,763,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	70,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	30,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	24,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.5	3.95	3.5	3.9	4,339,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13	13	13	13	100,800
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	27.5	28	27.5	28	393,800
Pancake House Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	10,000
Rfm Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	50,000
San Miguel Corp. A	41.5	42	41.5	41.5	32,900
San Miguel Corp. B	47	47	46.5	46.5	466,800
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	250,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
Ayala Corp.	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.4	602,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.68	1.74	1.64	1.64	4,889,000
Alliance Global Group Inc	11.5	11.75	11.25	11.5	2,400
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.79	0.79	20,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.47	250,000
Apc Group Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	100,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.55	0.58	0.54	0.54	250,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.52	1.56	1.5	1.5	11,984,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	100,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.29	0.32	4,950,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.08	745,00
First Phil Hldgs Corp	24	24.5	24	24	448,30
Global Equities Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	600,00
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	600,00
House Of Investments Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	300,00
Ionics Inc.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	16,00
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.98	2	1.98	2	197,00
Megaworld Corp.	0.76	0.76	0.73	0.74	1,820,00
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.49	0.5	0.48	0.5	260,00
Solid Group Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	590,00
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.28	0.26	0.28	1,700,00
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,00
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Corp.	1.74	2.1	1.7	2.1	1,260,00
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,00
Picop Resources Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,00
Pryce Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	200,00
Reynolds Philippine Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,00
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.89	0.9	0.89	0.9	60,00
Spi Technologies Inc.	16	16.25	16	16	82,50
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Bella Corp.	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.47	1,190,00
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.48	0.49	0.48	0.49	700,00
Grand Plaza Hotel Corp.	20	20	18	18	2,00
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	850,00
Philippine Racing Club	5	5	5	5	38,00
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	38.5	38.5	37.5	37.5	58,10
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	675	690	660	690	7,50
Jollibee Warrants	12.75	13.25	12.75	13.25	10,20
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0028	0.0028	0.0026	0.0026	87,000,0
RFM Corp. - Pref.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	3,0
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	2,0
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,0
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.031	0.032	0.031	0.032	44,700,0
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5	5	4.95	4.95	6,679,00
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	120,00
C & P Homes Inc.	0.31	0.36	0.31	0.35	579,120,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	600,00
Empire East Land Inc.	0.32	0.33	0.31	0.31	4,080,00
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.12	2.12	2.1	2.12	1,335,0
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.32	110,0
SM Development Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	20,0
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.4	6.6	6.4	6.5	6,950,0
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	1,300,0
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	2,100,0
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	70,0
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.005	0.005	40,000,0
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	71,000,0
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.015	37,600,0
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	10,0
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.018	0.019	0.018	0.019	4,600,0
Interport Res.	0.004	[illegible]	0.004	0.004	[illegible]
Oriental Pet. & M[illegible] A					
Oriental Pet. & M[illegible]					
Pacifica					
Sinophil Corp.					

	SHARES	VALUE
Banks & Fin Svc	679,800	76,192,990.
Comm'l & Ind'l	597,834,470	327,981,090.0
PRO	600,314,000	263,376,550.0
Mining	150,780,000	1,131,450.0
OIL	36,200,000	321,400.0
GRAND TOTALS :	1,385,808,270	669,003,480.0

AVERAGES

Banks & Fin Svc	606.22	UP 0
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,963.55	[illegible]
PRO	527.19	
Mining	1,089.[illegible]	
OIL	1.45	UP 0
All Shares Index	756.77	UP 9
Composite	1,416.09	UP 13

NO. OF ADVANCES: 42; NO. OF DECLINES: 21; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 45; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 108; NO. OF TRADES: 3,310

East West, ABN jack up capital

By CLARISSA S. BATINO

TWO capital-deficient commercial banks have set in motion moves to meet the central bank's requirements.

Deputy Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Alberto Reyes said East West Bank Corp. of the Gotianun family would acquire an affiliate, Filinvest Capital Corp., to raise its capital to P2.4 billion.

The central bank's Monetary Board has already approved the merger of East West Bank and Filinvest Capital. The bank has 38 branches and its capital prior to the acquisition was only slightly above P2 billion.

The thrift unit of Dutch investment firm ABN Amro Bank NV, meanwhile, whose capitalization is also slightly above P2 billion, has agreed to acquire TA Bank of the Philippines Inc.

ABN Amro plans to merge TA Bank with ABN Amro Savings Bank to create a wholly owned commercial bank with a minimum capital of P2.4 billion.

ABN Amro said it agreed to acquire TA Bank, a commercial bank with four branches, from The Manila Banking Corp. for an undisclosed price. It said it expected the deal to be closed in 60 days.

ABN Amro owns, apart from a thrift bank, an offshore banking unit and a securities brokerage here.

The Dutch bank was not one of the foreign banks awarded a full branch license by the Bangko Sentral in 1992.

In late 1999, ABN Amro acquired Great Pacific Savings Bank to upgrade its status to a full commercial bank but was prevented from doing so by a change in local banking regulations early last year.

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CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club	1,950,000	2,200,000
Camp John Hay	400,000	-
Capitol Hills Golf & CC	120,000	160,000
Canyon Woods	-	350,000
Celebrity Sports	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Club Filipino "A"	280,000	320,000
Eagleridge "A"	400,000	430,000
Eagleridge "B"	600,000	-
Evercrest golf club "A"	Pls. Call	150,000
Forest Hills "A"	Pls. Call	260,000
Fontana "D"	60,000	90,000
Makati Sports Club, Inc.	395,000	450,000
Manila Golf (Indv.)	14,000,000	-
Manila Polo	4,000,000	4,100,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	Pls. Call	820,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	Pls. Call	1,000,000
Mt. Malarayat "A"	400,000	450,000
Mt. Malarayat "Gold B"	450,000	550,000
Phil. Columbian	Pls. Call	90,000
Quezon City Sports Club	220,000	-
Riviera Golf	240,000	270,000
Royale Tagaytay	Pls. Call	130,000
Subic Bay	400,000	Pls. Call
Tagaytay Country Club	Pls. Call	300,000
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	900,000	1,000,000
Wack-Wack	8,500,000	Pls. Call

*** OTHER SHARES AVAILABLE ***

PLAYING RIGHTS AVAILABLE:

Lessor		
Alabang Country Club	-	45,000
Forest Hills	-	20,000
Manila Southwoods	-	60,000
Riviera	-	40,000
Tagaytay Highlands	-	60,000
Tagaytay Midlands	-	45,000

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CLUB	SELLING	BUYING
Alabang A	2,050 000	1,900 000
Alabang B	Pls Call	2,100 000
Baguio CC	Pls Call	800 000
Capitol Hills	140,000	125 000
Camp John Hay	-	350 000
Canyon Woods	400,000	-
Celebrity Sports	Best Buy!	Pls Call
Club Filipino	330 000	280 000
Eagleridge	450 000	Pls Call
Evercrest	130 000	-
Filipinas Golf	350 000	300 000
Fontana C	140 000	110 000
Fontana D	90 000	-
Forest Hills A	240 000	Pls Call
Malarayat	450 000	Pls Call
Manila Golf	15 000 000	14 800 000
Manila Polo	4,000 000	3 800 000
Manila Southwoods A	800 000	Pls Call
Manila Southwoods B	950 000	900 000
Mimosa A	Pls Call	200,000
Mimosa C2	300 000	
Orchard	300 000	Pls Call
Riviera	250 000	Pls Call
Sta Elena	2,200 000	Pls Call
Subic Golf	310 000	-
Subic Yacht Club	450 000	Pls Call
Tagaytay CC	480 000	Pls Call
Tagaytay Midlands	850 000	850 000
Tagaytay Highlands	1,100 000	Pls Call
Tivoli Royale	230 000	-
Valle Verde	190 000	Pls Call
Wack-wack	9 300 000	Pls Call

Playing Rights available lease

Alabang	60,000	Tagaytay CC	40,000
Eagleridge	50,000	Tagaytay Midlands	50,000
Orchard	Best Buy!	Tagaytay Highlands	50,000
Manila Southwoods	50,000	Wack-wack	90,000

GG & A Club Shares

SEC License Broker #007575 * As of June 4, 2001

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	2,000,000	2,200,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	2,400,000	
Baguio Country Club	800,000	850,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	100,000	115,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	150,000
Camp John Hay	310,000	370,000
Canlubang	850,000	900,000
Canyonwoods	-	350,000
Capitol Hills	125,000	140,000
Cebu Country Club	-	2,200,000
Celebrity Sports Club	210,000	Please Call
Club Filipino		330,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	Please Call	Please Call
Evercrest "A"	100,000	120,000
Forest Hills "A"	220,000	250,000
Forest Hills "B"	235,000	280,000
Forest Hills "C"		450,000
Makati Sports Club "A"		425,000
Makati Sports Club "B"		500,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	18,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	14,700,000	15,700,000
Manila Polo	3,600,000	4,000,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	-	800,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	980,000	1,000,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	160,000	180,000
Metropolitan Club "B"		230,000
Mimosa Golf & Country Club (Individual)	200,000	Please Call
Montemar (Individual)		40,000
Mt. Malarayat	300,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "A"	-	280,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"		400,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	-	550,000
Philippine Columbian	85,000	-
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	150,000	220,000
Quezon City Sports Club	220,000	235,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	240,000
Royale Tagaytay "A/B/C"	Please Call	Please Call
Sherwood Hills "A"		[illegible]
Sta. Elena "A"	1,700,000	2,100,000
Sta. Elena "B"	2,200,000	
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)		550,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	260,000
Tagaytay Country Club	390,000	450,000
Tagaytay Highlands	-	1,100,000
Tagaytay Midlands	-	850,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	190,000	220,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	-	10,600,000

PLAYING RIGHTS
(Available Lessees)
Manila Golf 450,000

(Available Lessors)

Alabang "A"	40,000	Mimosa Golf	20,000
Calatagan "A"	15,000	Orchard "A"	20,000
Canlubang	70,000	Riviera "A"	15,000
Eagleridge	30,000	Sta. Elena	70,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	30,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	65,000
Manila Southwoods	50,000	Tivoli Royale	20,000
Makati Sports "A"	35,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Manila Golf	500,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

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Partial List	06/01/2001
CLUBS	ASKED Price
CC @ TAGAYTAY	470 000
CALATAGAN	120 000
CAMP JOHN HAY	350 000
EAGLERIDGE "B"	550 000
FOREST HILLS "A"/"C"	30 M/ 45 M
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	430 000
MANILA GOLF (INDIV)	15,000 000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	825 000
ORCHARD "B"/"C"	60M/ 65M
PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN	90 000
SHERWOOD HILLS	230 000
STA ELENA "A"	2,100,000
SUBIC BAY YACHT (CORP)	550 000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	925 000

Share Swapping. Please Call	
CLUBS	BID Price
ALABANG "A"	1,900 000
ALABANG "B"	2,000 000
CAPITOL HILLS	125 000
CELEBRITY CLUB	200 000
EAGLERIDGE "A"	300 000
MANILA GOLF (INDIV)	14,500 000
MANILA GOLF (CORP)	16,250 000
MANILA POLO CLUB	3,800 000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	950 000
METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	160 000
QUEZON CITY SPORTS "A"	225 000
RIVIERA "A"	250 000
STA. ELENA "B"	2 200 000
VALLE VERDE	[illegible]

AVAILABLE LESSORS FOR PLAYING RIGHTS

ALABANG CC "A"	25 000	MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	50 000
CANLUBANG	35,000	STA. ELENA "A"	80 000
MAKATI SPORTS	30,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	40 000
MANILA GOLF	500 000	WACK WACK	[illegible]

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SELLING

Alabang A	2M
Baguio Country Club	790 000
Camp John Hay Golf	360 000
Canlubang Golf	690 000
Capitol Hills	130 000
Celebrity	200 000
Eagle Ridge A	425 000
Eagle Ridge B/C	Please call
Eastridge	200 000
Evercrest	110,000
Fontana A B C D	Please call
Forest Hill "A" / B / C	250/280 450
Lucsta Mu Yacht/Sherwood	Please call
Manila Golf (Indv)	15M
Manila Golf (Corp)	17M
Manila Polo	3.8M
Manila Southwoods "A" / B	800/940
Makati Sports "A"	430,000/450 000
Mimosa/Rockwell/Royal Tag	Please call
Mt. Malarayat "A"/Corp	395,000/500 000
Orchard "A"/B/C	280/400/600
Puerto Azul	150,000
Quezon City Sports	230 000
Subic Yacht (Indv.) & Corp.	Please call
Tagaytay Midland	840 000
Tagaytay Highland Club	440 000
Tagaytay Highland Golf	950 000
Valle Verde CC	190,000
Valley Golf	310,000
Wack Wack	8,680,000

BUYING:

Alabang A/B	2M/2.5M
Baguio Country Club	790 000
Camp John Hay Golf	350 000
Canlubang Golf	690 000
Capitol Hills	130 000
Celebrity	200 000
Club Filipino	280 000
Eagle Ridge A/B/C	425,000/Please call
Forest Hill "A" / B / C	240/280 400
Manila Golf (Indv)	15M
Manila Golf (Cor)	16.9M
Manila Polo	3.8M
Manila Southwoods A / B	800/940
Mt. Malarayat Corp	Please call
Orchard A/B/C	250/400/550
Puerto Azul	140,000
Quezon City Sports	225 000
Riviera "A" / B / C	250/350/550
Sta. Elena A/B	2.1M/2.2M
Tagaytay Midland	840 000
Tagaytay Highland Club	400 000
Tagaytay Highland Golf	900 000
Valle Verde CC	180 000
Valley Golf	300 000
Wack Wack	8M

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1	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	2,050,000.00	-
2	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	2,400,000.00	
3	BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	800,000.00	
4	CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	110,000.00	-
5	CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	-	680,000.00
6	CAMP JOHN HAY GOLF CLUB	450,000.00	350,000.00
7	CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	please call	-
8	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	480,000.00	
9	EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	450,000.00	
10	FOREST HILLS	250,000.00	
11	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	450,000.00	-
12	MANILA POLO CLUB	-	3,800,000.00
13	MANILA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (Individual)	15,500,000.00	15,000,000.00
14	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	870,000.00	-
15	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	-	950,000.00
16	MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB	30,000.00	-
17	MT. MALARAYAT "B"	550,000.00	500,000.00
18	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "A"	-	250,000.00
19	PHIL. COLUMBIAN ASSOCIATION	90,000.00	-
20	QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	250,000.00	
21	STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	2,100,000.00	
22	SHERWOOD HILLS "B"	360,000.00	
23	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS GOLF CLUB	870,000.00	
24	VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB (Individual)	190,000.00	
25	VERDEMAR GOLF CLUB INC. (CEBU)	please call	
26	WACK-WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	please call	
27	OTHERS	please call	

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WB DEMAND

More transparent listed companies sought

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE WORLD Bank is urging the government to require increased transparency on ownership of listed companies in order to better regulate the corporate sector.

At the same time, the multilateral financial institution is also prodding government to improve rights of minority shareholders of publicly listed corporations.

Based on preliminary recommendations filed with various government agencies, the World Bank wanted a mechanism for both regulators and shareholders to identify the component parts of the capital structure and beneficial ownership of listed companies when holdings of a certain group or person exceed an agreed margin.

The World Bank also suggested that the register of beneficial owners be made publicly available via the Internet and on-site inspections.

Currently, it is very difficult for the public to find out the ownership structure of listed companies because of red tape and insufficient rules.

In the case of the Philippine National Bank, the public early last year was led to believe that tobacco magnate Lucio Tan had control of a 46-percent stake in the bank when corporate records showed that he only had proxies covering a 10.59-percent stake. The confusion discouraged potential buyers of the government's then 30-percent stake in PNB.

On the issue of minority shareholder rights, the multilateral agency floated the idea of empowering minority shareholders to play a more effective role in corporate governance through the introduction of a provision to let them convene directly a meeting of the company without having to petition the regulator.

The World Bank also suggested a provision allowing shareholders to put forward proposals or counterproposals to management agendas.

Other recommendations of the World Bank on the issue include:

- Review provisions governing duties of majority in relation to the minority and consider limiting voting rights on matters wherein the majority has a conflict of interest.
- Review the minimum free float for listing to ensure it corresponds with the qualified majority provisions designed to protect minority shareholders, that is provisions requiring two-thirds stockholder approval.
- Introduce a provision for postal voting and allow electronic voting.

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The following speakers are: Cheryl Ann Arnold, Marketing Communications and Promotions Manager, Manila Diamond Hotel; Charlie Agatep, CEO/President, Agatep & Associates, Inc.; Jun Malacaman, President, Assyts, Inc.; Ramon Isberto, Head, Public Affairs, Smart Communications, Inc. and Victoria Abad, Manager, Market Research and Information Services, Splash Manufacturing Corporation

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BUT ECONOMY STILL WEAK

US jobless rate slips in May

WASHINGTON—The US job market held up better than expected in May as the unemployment rate slipped, but a dismal reading on a key factory gauge showed the economy's troubles are far from over.

The jobless rate eased to 4.4 percent from 4.5 percent in April—defying economists' predictions that unemployment would tick higher. It was the first drop in the jobless rate since September of last year.

But several economists said the drop was misleading. It stemmed not from any strength in hiring trends, but from a large number of Americans leaving the workforce and who were therefore no longer counted as "unemployed."

"I think clearly there are mixed signals (in the May jobs report), we have positive signs and we have negative signs . . . we need to look at it carefully," said Labor Secretary Elaine Chao.

Employers trimmed a net 19,000 workers from payrolls in May, marking the second straight monthly drop in jobs. The payrolls number—calculated from a separate survey than the one used to compute the unemployment rate—was in line with the 17,000 decline predicted by US economists in a Reuters survey.

Grim factory picture

Far more worrisome, though, was a decline in the National Association of Purchasing Management's closely watched gauge of industrial activity.

It fell to 42.1 in May from 43.2 in April, sagging back toward a decade low of 41.2 hit in January, and denting hopes that three months of mild gains showed the manufacturing sector could claw out of its slump.

"I don't think there are many signs for optimism," said Norbert Ore, chair of NAPM's business survey committee. "We are not going to get a quick bounce out of this (economy) as people once thought."

A reading under 50 in the NAPM index signals contracting activity in the manufacturing sector, which comprises one-fifth of the US economy. The gauge has been below that threshold for the past 10 months.

Major US stock indices ended higher after the conflicting signals from the data made for a topsy-turvy day.

The blue-chip Dow Jones industrial average jumped 78.47 points, or 0.72 percent, to end at 10,990.41. The tech-loaded Nasdaq composite index gained 38.95 points, or 1.85 percent, to end at 2,149.44, based on the latest available numbers.

Treasuries rose as the purchasing managers' report solidified expectations that the Federal Reserve (news-websites) will cut interest rates again at its regular policy-setting meeting on June 26-27.

In a Reuters survey, 19 of 25 top bond firms expect a quarter-point decrease at the upcoming meeting, with three forecasting no change and three projecting a half-point cut.

The Fed has hacked 2-1/2 percentage points off overnight interest rates so far in 2001, acting on five occasions in one of the most aggressive rate-reduction sprees in history.

Analysts said those rate cuts, along with the newly enacted package of US tax cuts, would help boost the economy but their full force was unlikely to show up until later in the year. *Reuters*

Malaysia's powerful finance minister resigns

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia—Malaysia's powerful finance minister has resigned following a two-month leave of absence, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad announced Saturday.

Daim Zainuddin's future has been the subject of intense speculation on financial markets since earlier this year, amid speculation that he had fallen out with Mahathir and would resign from the Cabinet.

Mahathir told local reporters that Daim submitted a resignation letter to him Friday after he returned to Kuala Lumpur from the G-15 summit of developing nations in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Daim gave no reasons for his decision, which was effective immediately, Mahathir was quoted as saying by the national news agency Bernama.

In April, Mahathir surprised the markets by announcing that Daim had gone on leave and would not attend meetings of the Cabinet or of the decision-making body of Malaysia's ruling United Malays National Organization.

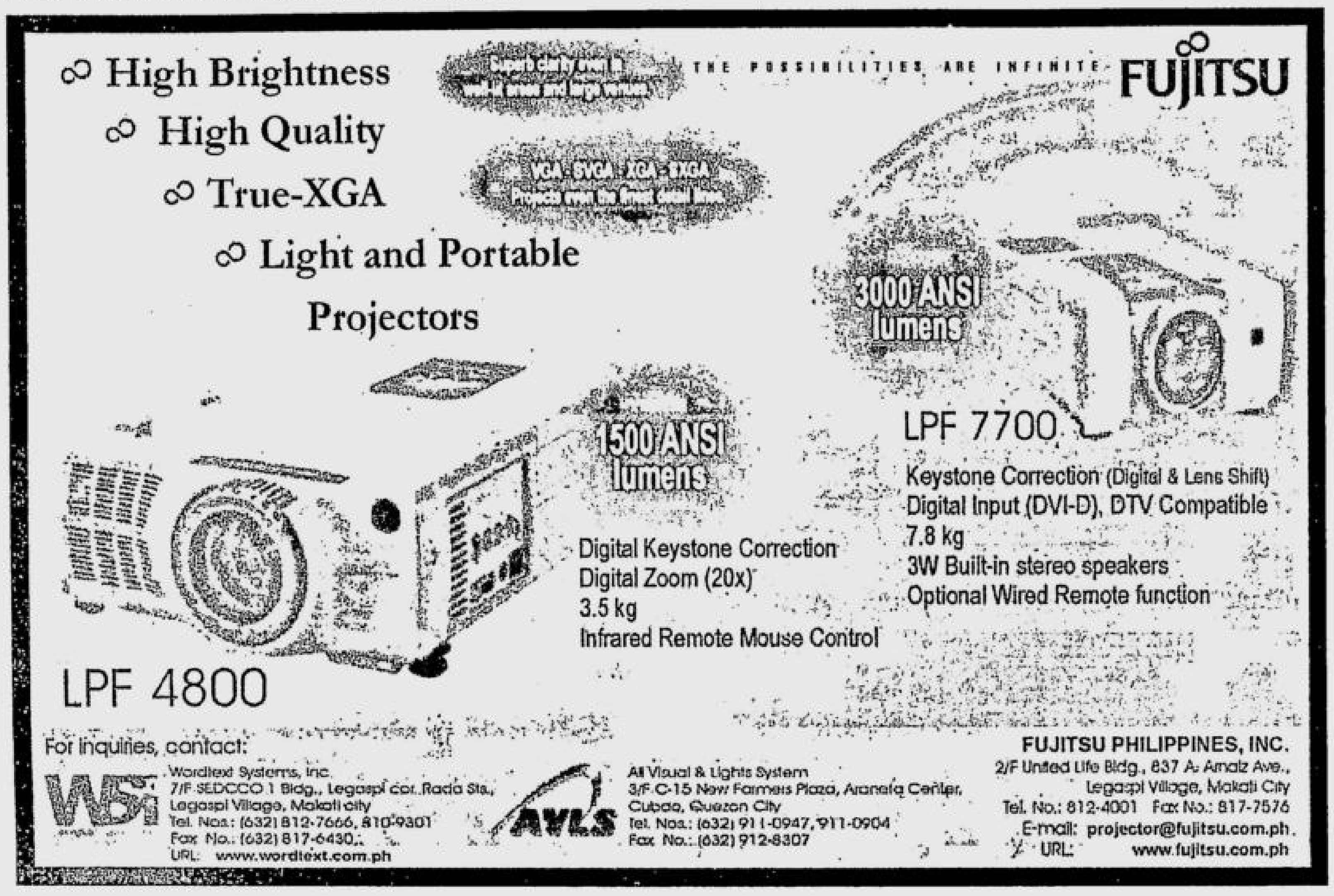
By the mid-1990s, though, Mahathir had turned over the Finance Ministry to his popular Deputy Premier, Anwar Ibrahim, and Daim was pursuing a lucrative career in the private sector.

But when regional economies collapsed in the 1997-98 financial crisis, Mahathir clashed with Anwar, who wanted Malaysia to follow International Monetary Fund-style reform programs. Mahathir subsequently fired his protege and made Daim the economic czar.

Anwar was tried and sentenced to 15 years in prison for corruption and sodomy. He claims he was set up to prevent a political challenge, which the government denies.

Daim instituted measures at odds with those recommended by the Washington-based IMF, imposing capital controls and pegging the ringgit to the US dollar. The measures appeared to work at least, as well as the IMF-mandated programs.

But Malaysia's economic policy has suffered several setbacks in recent months, from criticism of alleged cronyism to a predicted fall in growth due to ripple effects from the US slowdown hitting the country's exports of electronics goods. *AP*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US April construction spending hits record high

WASHINGTON--While US construction spending rose in April to its sixth consecutive monthly gain and a new record, the scant increase suggested that the housing sector of the economy might be leveling off.

Construction spending rose 0.3 percent in April to a record $855.2 billion annual rate, following a revised 1.1 percent gain in March, the Commerce Department said on Friday.

Construction spending in March originally was reported to rise 1.3 percent.

The increase in April was slightly above Wall Street expectations. Analysts had predicted construction spending would be unchanged in the month.

Compared with a year ago, spending rose 4.8 percent.

Analysts said an easing is to be expected because the housing sector—a vigorous segment of an otherwise anemic economy—has grown in recent months at a particularly robust clip. Housing construction and sales should either level or taper off slightly, but will continue to be strong compared with historical rates, the analysts said.

"Construction activity is maybe not going to rise, but I don't think construction has peaked," said Stuart Hoffman, chief economist of PNC Financial Services in Pittsburgh. "Home building or sales will find it hard to top the record rates of March, but I expect home sales to remain relatively strong."

The continued month-over-month increase in construction spending followed recent government and trade association reports that new single-family home sales dipped a dramatic 9.5 percent from March to April, while sales of existing homes fell 4.2 percent during that time frame.

At the same time, long-term fixed rate mortgage rates continued to creep up, with 30-year mortgages hitting a five-month high at an average of 7.24 percent and 15-year rates rising to an average of 6.78 percent, Freddie Mac said.

Many observers have attributed the strength in the housing market to low interest rates.

But David Berson, chief economist for Fannie Mae, said housing numbers and home sales were merely slipping from unsustainable paces.

"The levels are still incredibly strong historically," he said.

Thirty-year mortgages averaged 8.54 percent a year ago, while 15-year mortgages averaged 8.24 percent. Compared to a year ago, sales of new US homes were up 6 percent in April, and sales of existing homes were up 4.4 percent.

The US economy grew at a revised rate of 1.3 percent in the first quarter of 2001.

Residential spending rose in April by 0.7 percent, to a $372.7-billion annual rate, marking an increase of 1 percent over April of last year, Commerce said. *Reuters*

Microsoft, AOL talks stalled

SEATTLE—Talks over whether America Online will be included in Microsoft's upcoming Windows XP (news-websites) operating system broke down, a Microsoft spokesman confirmed Friday.

Negotiations, which had been ongoing since a contract between the two ended Jan. 1, were called off this week after the two could not agree to new terms, spokesman Jim Cullinan said.

Windows XP, the latest version of Microsoft's operating system, is scheduled to be in stores in October.

America Online spokesman Jim Whitney said AOL, a division of AOL Time Warner, had no comment.

Cullinan said Microsoft still would provide AOL with the technical information it needs to make the company's Internet software compatible with XP if users install it themselves.

Microsoft provides this information for many independent software vendors (ISVs), makers of software that people often run with Windows.

"We're disappointed that talks broke down, but AOL remains a very important ISV and we are working very hard to ensure the AOL client will work great on top of Windows XP," Cullinan said.

Under the terms of the expired contract, Microsoft had agreed to pre-install AOL Internet service into its Windows desktops in exchange for AOL agreeing to use Microsoft's Internet Explorer browser.

This placement allowed AOL to draw users very quickly and gave Explorer prominence over rival Netscape, which was later bought by AOL.

A person close to negotiations, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said various options were discussed for a new deal.

The source said sticking points included making AOL's instant messaging program compatible with Microsoft's or tweaking AOL's system to support Microsoft's Windows Media Player format in addition to RealNetworks' RealPlayer format.

But another person close to the discussions said Microsoft and AOL never discussed instant messaging compatibility.

He said Microsoft had asked for exclusive use of its Windows Media Player format with AOL, which AOL would not agree to.

Currently, AOL's software ships with and supports technology from RealNetworks, Microsoft's rival in the digital media field. Speculation that AOL would shift allegiances to Windows Media Player sent RealNetworks' stock plummeting earlier this month. *AP*

Palm to make new job cuts

SANTA CLARA, California—Digital organizer maker Palm Inc. said on Friday it would make new job cuts in its next fiscal quarter, even though it was gaining market share with its newest product.

The company also said it hired Todd Bradley, former executive vice president of global operations at computer maker Gateway Inc., as chief operating officer of the company's main division, which is responsible for sales of the handheld computers.

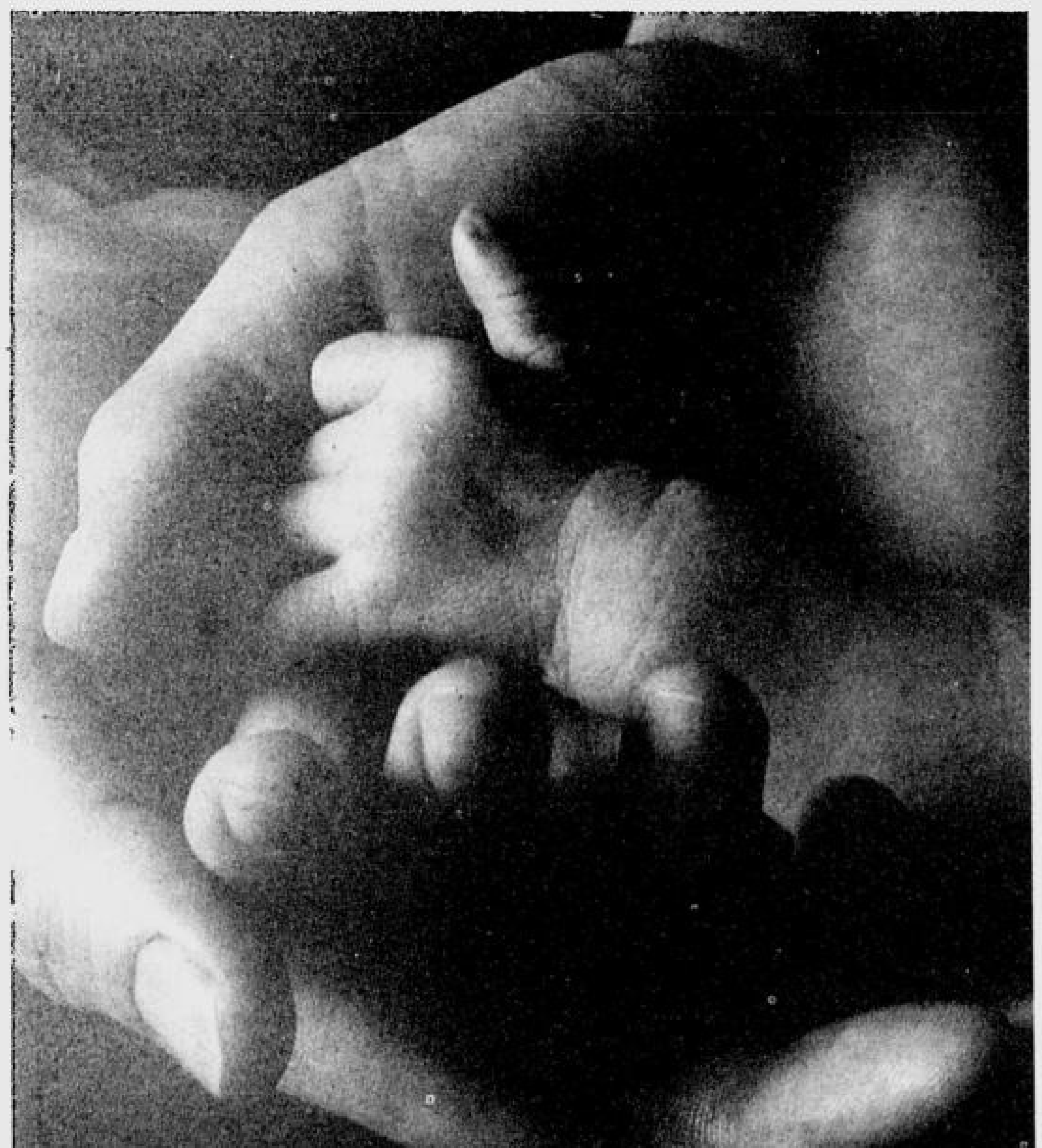
"Palm . . . will make additional reductions in its workforce in the first fiscal quarter of 2002 to bring its cost structure closer in line with business conditions. Last month, Palm reduced its workforce by a total of about 300 regular and contract workers," the company said in a statement.

The company said it would give more details on the job cuts when it announced fiscal fourth-quarter results the week of June 25.

Palm, one of the last technology companies to feel the slowdown that began in the personal computer market last fall, said its US retail market share had risen to 67 percent from 60 percent in the latest weekly survey by NPD Intelect, after its new organizer, the m500 handheld, became available in stores.

The company has been on the defensive after being caught with excess inventory and facing tough competition from other handheld makers.

Palm shares closed up 56 cents, to $6.19 on Friday after the announcement, outpacing the broader market for the day although the stock has fallen nearly 80 percent this year and underperformed the Standard & Poor's 500 index by about the same amount. *Reuters*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Wall St. economists see end in sight to Fed easing

NEW YORK—The Federal Reserve's aggressive monetary easing campaign may soon be over, with the central bank having one or at most two more bullets left in its rate-cutting gun, according to a Reuters poll of Wall Street economists on Friday.

"The big story is that the Fed's cutting is getting close to being done," said Steve Gallagher, an economist at SG Cowen Securities.

Even though growth remains subdued, a variety of reasons underpin economists' growing confidence that the Fed's task of turning the economic slowdown around may be nearing an end. A package of tax refunds passed last weekend by lawmakers ranks high on the list.

Another reason is that despite a still-worsening jobs market, recent data has shown Americans' confidence in the economic outlook, which plunged at the end of last year, is stabilizing.

This raises the chances that the retail spending that powers around two-thirds of economic activity will keep the rest of the economy motoring even if business investment remains in a funk, economists say.

The economic slump has so far been mostly concentrated in the manufacturing sector, which slipped even deeper into a 10-month-long recession in May as businesses liquidated an overhang of unsold goods rather than raising production, a private sector report showed on Friday.

In the Reuters poll, 19 of the 25 primary dealers that deal directly with the Fed in bond markets forecast short-term rates would be cut by 25 basis points at the Fed's next meeting on June 26-27. This would be the sixth time the powerful central bank has eased rates this year.

Just three dealers polled said they expected another 50 basis point move at that meeting. Such a move would match the five aggressive cuts already put in place since the beginning of the year.

Three expected the Fed to stand pat.

Thirteen dealers forecast another 25-basis point cut at the Fed's August meeting, while 12 saw no move.

Economists at 15 of the 25 dealers said they expect the Fed's benchmark federal funds rate to reach 3.50 percent by the end of the year. Seven saw it at 3.75 percent, and three saw rates at 4.0 percent by yearend.

So far this year the Fed has cut the fed funds rate by 2.5 percentage points, or 250 basis points, in five half-point moves to 4.00 percent from 6.5 percent, which is unusually fast action for the Fed.

A weak May employment report released on Friday showed the economy was still shedding jobs as growth remained well below the heady levels seen in recent years.

Reuters

Australia vows to pursue free trade in Asia Pacific

CANBERRA—Australia declared Friday it would continue to press for free trade throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

Trade Minister Mark Vaile said moves toward free trade had already lifted 150 million people in the region out of poverty and Australia's ultimate goal was to see poverty eliminated entirely from the region.

"We need to maintain our focus," Vaile told reporters on the eve of a visit to Japan and China.

"We do not want to see economies moving back on their commitments."

Members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation group agreed in 1994 to pursue the goal of free trade in the region.

Developed countries in the group, which now has 21 members, agreed to achieve free trade in the region by 2010. Others were to catch up by 2020.

But the subsequent Asian economic crisis and other developments slowed progress toward these targets.

Vaile admitted that Australia had been "gung ho" in its campaign for free trade, but he offered no apology.

Instead, he declared that Australia would keep its "shoulder to the wheel" on the issue.

Vaile will visit Tokyo from June 2-5.

He will also attend an Apec trade ministers' meeting in Shanghai on June 6 and 7.

Vaile said Australia saw the Shanghai meeting as an opportunity to build support for a new round of world trade talks.

He said Australia hoped to see that round launched after a World Trade Organization meeting in Doha, Qatar, in November.

Vaile said the credibility of the WTO would depend on success in that venture, after the failure of similar moves at its last meeting in Seattle in 1999.

AFP

Wal-Mart vows growth in 2001

CHICAGO—Executives from Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's largest retailer, on Friday said the company is committed to adding about 40 million square feet of new retail space in the US in 2001 despite a slowdown in consumer spending and a weak selling environment.

"Others (retailers) are slowing down their programs, and we're doing just the opposite," chief financial officer Tom Schoewe told shareholders and employees gathered for the company's 31st annual meeting in Fayetteville, Arkansas. His comments were broadcast over the Internet.

Schoewe noted recent store closures at rivals Sears, Roebuck and Co., Kmart Corp. and J.C. Penney Co. but said Wal-Mart would add about 290 US stores, or about 40 million square feet, in 2001. In 1985, the company's entire square footage was about 41 million.

He also said the company would expand its international operations through acquisitions or by building new stores. As of April 30, Wal-Mart had 3,153 stores in the US and 1,088 in nine other countries.

The retailer said its capital expenditures for 2001 are forecast at $9 billion, about even with last year.

Shares of Wal-Mart ended off 3 cents at $51.72 in afternoon trade on the New York Stock Exchange.

Prices falling in discount market

Wal-Mart, known for its policy of offering "everyday low prices," also vowed to keep aggressive pricing a top priority of the company. The discount retail environment has heated up, with No. 2 US discounter.

Kmart and Target Corp. promise to lower prices in line with competitors, namely Wal-Mart.

"Our customers must trust that we are committed to everyday low prices," Lee Scott, Wal-Mart's chief executive, told shareholders. "We have to be committed to selling for less."

Tom Coughlin, CEO of the company's Wal-Mart discount stores division, said he encouraged employees to visit Target and Kmart stores in their markets each week in an effort to monitor prices.

"Our competitors are fewer in number, but those that are left are much more aggressive," Coughlin said. "Today's environment is the toughest I've ever seen."

At a meeting with analysts following the annual meeting, Coughlin said that four weeks ago, Kmart lowered about 4,000 prices. Kmart had cut prices on about 1,300 products around Labor Day weekend last year, he said.

"If the perceived value (among customers) is there, we have to respond," he said. "Exactly what the plan is, I don't know."

Kmart has been steadily lowering prices following a review by its new chief executive Chuck Conaway.

Reuters

Ford May sales slump 11.6%

DETROIT—Ford Motor Co., embroiled in a public feud with Firestone over its decision to replace 13 million tires on its vehicles, said that its US vehicle sales fell 11.6 percent in May.

Ford said its car sales, excluding its Volvo and Jaguar brands, were down 12.4 percent to 137,414 while its light truck sales fell 11.1 percent to 215,860.

The results were generally in line with expectations because of continuing weakness in the US economy.

The world's second-largest automaker said last week it would spend $3 billion to replace 13 million Firestone Wilderness AT tires mounted mostly on its popular Explorer sport utility vehicles.

Ford said it would extend temporary shutdowns of two Ranger pickup assembly plants by one week to divert replacement tires to customers. The move was in line with Ford's previously announced cut of 60,000 vehicles from its production schedule.

The Wilderness tires targeted by Ford for replacement were excluded from Firestone's massive recall last year of 6.5 million tires, which were linked to at least 174 traffic deaths in the United States.

Ford, which expects to post a second-quarter loss of 35 cents per share because of the new recall, has said the action was necessary because it has lost confidence in the ability of Firestone tires to keep Ford customers safe.

For its part, Firestone, a unit of Japan's Bridgestone Corp., has said there is no need for a broader recall of its tires and that the design of the Explorer contributes to the deadly traffic accidents that have unfairly tarnished its reputation.

Sales of the Explorer, which dropped quickly in the aftermath of the Firestone recall last August, were down 16.5 percent in May compared with the same month last year.

The vehicle, especially the all-new 2002 Explorer, which has been hit by two embarrassing recalls over production problems since its launch in March, is a key generator of profits at Ford.

Sales of the larger Excursion and Expedition SUVs fell 22.4 percent and 21.8 percent respectively, meanwhile, in keeping with a year-long trend. Each faces stiff new competition and could be suffering as high US gasoline prices steer consumers away from some of the biggest gas-guzzlers in Ford's lineup. *Reuters*

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NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION
Quezon City

NEEDED IMMEDIATELY

GENERAL MANAGER

for

Zambales I Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(ZAMECO I)
Palauig, Zambales

Qualifications

Applicant may be male or female, must be at least 30 but not more than 55 years old, college graduate (in Business Management, Accounting/Finance, Engineering or Behavioral Sciences) preferably with Master's Degree in Business Management Administration or Industrial Management, and must have at least five (5) years supervisory experience.

STARTING SALARY P18,000.00

Application forms and additional information may be obtained at the Cooperative Operations Department, 3rd Floor, NEA Building, NIA Road, Government Center, Diliman, Quezon City, or at the Regional Electrification Office III, Room 409 FRELUZ Building, Gapan-Olongapo Road, San Fernando City. Deadline for the submission of application form is on 18 June 2001.

(Sgd.) MANULL LUIS S. SANCHEZ
Administrator

(PDI – June 3 & 4, 2001)

PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
PICPA Building, 700 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City

TO ALL CPAs CONCERNED

Due to persistent requests by many of our colleagues to extend the amnesty program on PICPA membership. The National Board of Directors has approved **June 1** to **August 31, 2001** as another amnesty period.

Under this amnesty, all members in arrears of their dues shall only pay **P500.00** on or before August 31, 2001, otherwise they will be paying much more thereafter. It may be mentioned that there is a pending Bill (H.B. No. 12007) in the Lower House which requires all professionals to be members of an Accredited Professional Organization (APO). Registration under this bill could be much more expensive.

Please contact the PICPA National Headquarters at 700 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City or call Mr. Roy Trinidad, National MCC Chair at Tel. Nos. (063) 221-3406 and (063) 492-0795, Iligan City; or Mr. Horace Dumlao and Emma Culion at Tel. No. 726-9456 or 723-6306 for more information.

It is to your best interest to avail yourselves of this program.

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NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given on the loss of University Physicians Services Inc. Stock Certificates Nos. 958 for 48 shares; 959 for 31 shares; 1194 for 24 shares under the name of Ramon S. Suter if no contest received, new stock certificates will be issued. (PDI-May 21, 28 & June 4, 2001)

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I am
the way,
the truth
and
the life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.

John 14:6

In Loving Commemoration of the
First Death Anniversary
Of Our Beloved

RODRIGO HILARIO T. MOSCOSO

November 3, 1941 - June 5, 2000

Tomorrow Holy Masses will be said at:

5:30 AM	**Our Lady of Fatima Parish Church,** Alta Tierra Village, Jaro, Iloilo City
6:00 AM	**Immaculate Conception Parish Church,** Lantana Street, Cubao, Quezon City
6:00 AM	**St. Paul the Apostle Church,** Mo. Ignacia Street corner Timog Avenue, Quezon City
6:00 AM	**St. Clement's Church,** Luna Street, La Paz, Iloilo City
7:15 AM	**Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church,** San Marcelino Street, Ermita, Manila
12:15 NN	**Sto. Domingo Church,** Quezon Avenue, Quezon City
5:30 PM	**San Jose Parish Church,** Plaza Libertad, Iloilo City
6:00 PM	**Mt. Carmel Parish Church,** Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City

His wife **Zephyr**; daughter **Pamela Sue**; twin brother **Bobby**; and sisters **Chita, Filipina,** and **Jimena**; relatives and friends, request the pious readers to remember him in their prayers. Thank you and may God bless you all.

MILO M. FLORES

Died in the Grace of our Lord on 23 May 2001
at Los Angeles, California

His bereaved father **Judge Alfredo C. Flores**; mother **Julita Flores**; sisters **Ma. Rebecca** and **Ma. Angela**; **Tito Nol** and **Tita Dorothy**; uncles and aunties; cousin **Janice** and other cousins request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City from June 2 to June 6, 2001.

Interment will be at Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches on June 6, 2001 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

We Lovingly Remember
the Second Death Anniversary of

JOSEFA BLANCO MANGAHAS

who joined her Creator on June 4, 1999

Our Lady of Parish Church, Cotabato City	6:00 AM
Our Lady of Manaoag Pangasinan Church	7:00 AM
Our Lady of Immaculate Conception Church, Urdaneta, Pangasinan	6:00 AM
Parish of Hearts of Jesus and Mary, West Triangle, Quezon City	6:30 AM
Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City	6:30 AM
National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, Quezon City	6:30 AM
Sacred Heart Parish, Kamuning, Quezon City	6:00 AM
St. Jude Shrine, San Miguel, Manila	6:30 AM
St. Columba Church, Oxon Hill, Maryland, U.S.A.	7:00 AM
St. Odelia Church, Tucson, Arizona, U.S.A.	9:00 AM
St. Rita Parish, New Orleans, L.A., U.S.A.	7:00 AM
St. Martin de Porres Church, San Pedro, Laguna	7:00 AM

We adore you, Mom.
Your loving children.

"In the sight of the angels,
I will sing your praises Lord"

In Loving Memory

JOSE DENNIS B. RODRIGUEZ

May 14, 1955 - June 04, 2000

His Family requests relatives, friends and the pious readers to include Jodee in their prayers

Masses offered at:

Sta. Maria della Strada La Vista Quezon City	6:00 a.m.
Holy Sacrifice Parish U.P. Quezon City	12:00 noon
San Fernando Cathedral San Fernando Pampanga	12:00 noon
St. Andrew Parish Candaba Pampanga	6:30 a.m.
Holy Rosary Parish Angeles City	6:30 a.m.
Good Shepherd Parish Bulaon San Fernando Pampanga	6:00 a.m.
La Consolacion Parish Tandang Sora Quezon City	6:30 a.m.
St. James The Apostle Parish Paombong Bulacan	6:00 a.m.
Dept. of Agriculture Conference Room Region III San Fernando Pampanga	8:30 a.m.

Lord's Resurrection Parish
Madapdap, Mabalacat, Pampanga
Every Sunday 6:00 a.m. Mass for 1 year

In Loving Memory

on the 25th Death Anniversary of

Capt. ROMEO D. ALMARIO (P.A.F.)

His wife **Pacita**, 8 children and other members of his family request relatives, friends and readers for prayers and acts of mercy in his memory.

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches on June 4, 2001.

Santuario de San Antonio *Forbes, Makati*	6:00 AM
Parish of the Sacred Heart *Hillsborough, Alabang*	6:00 AM
Our Lady of Beautiful Love *Merville, Parañaque*	6:00 AM
Natl. Shrine of the Most Holy Rosary *Sto. Domingo, Quezon City*	6:30 AM
Sto. Niño de Paz *Greenbelt, Makati*	7:15 AM
Blessed Sacrament Parish *Mossman, Sydney*	9:00 AM
St. Mary Magdalene *Rosebay, Sydney*	9:00 AM
St. John Bosco Parish *Arnaiz, Makati*	12:15 PM
Christ the King Parish *Greenmeadows, Quezon City*	6:00 PM
Hearts of Jesus & Mary *West Triangle, Quezon City*	6:00 PM
Mary the Queen Parish *Greenhills, San Juan*	6:00 PM
Santuario de San Jose *Greenhills, San Juan*	6:15 PM
St. James the Great Parish *Ayala Alabang*	6:30 PM

DEOGRACIAS "ARCING" HILARIO

Died on June 2, 2001

His body lies in state at the Dulce Funeral Parlor, J. Abad Santos, Tondo, Manila.

Interment will be on Thursday, June 7, 2001 at 2:00 PM at the North Cemetery

---

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
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COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City
Tels. (082) 227 1201, 227 1258
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Tel. 894 5032 to 34
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Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
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219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila
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Sucat, Parañaque City, Tels. [illegible]
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16-16 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila
Tels. 749 3879, 781 1772
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City
Tels. 372 5094, 410 9266, [illegible]
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue, 517 A. Arnaiz St., Pasay City
Tels. 831 3797, 844 7846, 843 1801, 845 4836

CLASSIFIEDS

INQUIRER TRIVIA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

It's out there

Q. What makes the Stealth bomber plane "invisible" to radar?

A. The design of this high-tech aircraft features, among others, a minimum of metal and with the exterior clad in highly absorbent tiles. These non-metallic tiles absorb radar waves rather than reflecting them back to the radar ground station as normally happens. To help achieve radar invisibility, the bomber is coated with radar-absorbent paint on its leading edge. A similar technology is used underwater to foil sonar detection. Modern submarines are coated in a thick layer of top-secret resin which is highly absorbent acoustically, and reflects only a minute amount of the energy transmitted by sonar detectors.

Ooops! In Bembridge, England, on the Isle of Wight, Daniel Arthure, 20, was so absorbed by rock music he was listening to on his earphones that he did not hear a Cessna 150 aircraft crash-land on the lawn of his home or the frantic rescue of its two injured passengers. Arthure said the first he knew something was wrong was when he looked out of his kitchen window as fire engines and police cars pulled up outside and saw "dozens of people running 'round my garden."

For the Record. The ear is actually two organs in one: an organ of hearing and one of balance. Amazingly, the inner ear, although no bigger than a hazelnut, contains as many circuits as the telephone system of a good-sized city. And by the way, the smallest human muscle—the stapedius—in the ear. It's a little over 1 millimeter (0.05 inch) long.

WORD WATCH

Microphonia (my croh fow ni uh) : a weak, hardly audible voice.

PDI – June 4, 2001

Republic of the Philippines
SOUTHERN LEYTE STATE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY
Sogod, Southern Leyte

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

A. The Southern Leyte State College of Science and Technology, Sogod, Southern Leyte is inviting qualified contractors (Small B) to pre-qualify and bid the proposed construction of SLSCST Two-Storey Administration Building, Phase II.

B. Pre-C Forms, Bid documents as well as other informations are available at the PBAC Secretariat c/o PBAC Chairman, SLSCST, Sogod, Southern Leyte upon submission of the following: 1. Letter of Intent 2. PCAB License 3. Certification of Completion and Acceptance of Contract Agreement of completed projects and 4 Presentation of original documents for authentication purposes.

C. Working Plan (blue print) shall be released to pre-qualified contractors upon payment of non-refundable fee of P2,000.00 only from authorized representative with authorization from the owner/board.

D. Schedule of Activities:

1.	Pre-qualification	June 14, 2001
2.	Issuance of Bid Documents	June 21, 2001
3.	Pre-bidding Conference	July 12, 2001
4.	Submission of Pre-C and Bid Documents	July 26, 2001

E. SLSCST reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive formally any defect herein and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

For more information, please contact Valerio B. Cabalo, PBAC Chairman or Monina S. Solis PBAC Executive Officer/Secretary. Tel. Nos. 053-382-2003, 053-382-3294.

(Sgd.) LEONARDO L. MANALO
President

(PDI – May 31, June 2 & 4, 2001)

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Republic of the Philippines
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 70, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

Interested parties are invited to bid for the:

CONTRACT FOR JANITORIAL SERVICE

The Public Bidding will be held at **10:00 a.m.** on **June 29, 2001** at the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) Social Hall, Philippine Sugar Center Building, Diliman, Quezon City.

Pre-qualification forms may be secured from the Secretariat, 3rd Floor, Annex Building, SRA Compound starting **June 5, 2001**. Deadline for submission is on **June 11, 2001**.

Bid forms at Php100.00/set shall be issued by the Secretariat to pre-qualified bidders on **June 18, 2001**.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bidder's bond either in Cash, Cashier's/Manager's Check or GSIS bond equivalent to 10% of the total bid price.

SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality or defect therein and accept the bid most advantageous to the office.

(Sgd.) JAMES C. LEDESMA
Administrator

(PDI – June 2,3 & 4, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
METROSTAR EXPRESS

INVITATION TO BID

The DOTC-MRT 3 Bids and Awards Committee invites all interested bidders/suppliers to prequalify and bid for the supply and delivery of the following:

14 units of Computers Pentium 4
1 unit of Notebook Computer Pentium 4

Issuance of accreditation requirements can be obtained upon payment of non-refundable fee of P100.00 to the Administrative Division, DOTC-MRT 3 Depot, North Avenue cor. EDSA, North Triangle Area, Quezon City. Submission of duly accomplished and notarized pre-qualification documents shall not be later than 5:00 p.m., June 29, 2001.

Bid documents and complete specifications are available for issuance upon payment of P500.00, which is not refundable, and upon presentation of Notice of Invitation and Certificate of Accreditation.

The DOTC-MRT 3 reserves the right to reject any or all bids of the bids proposals without offering any reason, wiave any informality therein and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. This office, likewise, assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids nor does it guarantee that an award shall be made.

(Sgd.) MARIO C. MIRANDA
Acting General Manager
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI - May 30, June 2 & 4, 2001)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT

- Graduate of Psychology or Behavioral Science
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*Mail your application letter, comprehensive resumé (with contact telephone number) and 1x1 ID photo on or before **Friday, June 8, 2001** to:*

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
(Code: PA)
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Sts.,
Makati City
E-mail: **recruitment@inquirer.com.ph**

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

We are in need of a

RECORDS CLERK

- College graduate preferably with background in Marketing or Advertising
- 1 year experience on similar job
- Knowledge of basic computer operations

*Interested applicants may submit or mail their application letter, comprehensive resumé (with contact telephone number) and one 1x1 ID photo on or before, **Friday, June 8, 2001** to:*

THE HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
(Code: REC)
Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc.
Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague
and Mascardo Sts., Makati
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

we invite you to apply as

MARKETING ASSISTANT

- Graduate of a 4-year business course preferably with emphasis in Marketing or Mass Communication
- Knowledge of Marketing principles and strategies
- Knowledge of basic computer operations

Send your application letter, comprehensive resumé and 1x1 ID photo on or before **Friday, June 8, 2001** to:

THE HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
(Code: Mktg Asst)
Philippine Daily Inquirer,
Chino Roces Ave.
Corner Yague and Mascardo
Sts., Makati City
E-mail:
recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

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FOR BETTER SERVICING, WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING APPLICANTS FOR:

BUSINESS CENTER OPERATORS (BCO)

(20 BCOs for MMLA, 2 BCOs each for other cities & 1 BCO each for big municipalities)

Requirements & Qualifications:

1. Letter of Intent with personal & business informations.
2. Adequate office space & facilities for the meetings/trainings of at least 20 persons at any given time.
3. Online computer/s (we will supply if you have none), telephone & communications facilities.
4. At least P120, 000.00 operating cash & delivery facilities; one full-time staff.

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Unit 823 City & Land Megaplaza, ADB Ave.,Ortigas Complex
1605 Pasig City

Telefax No.: (02) 687-43-11
E-mail: *risephilippines@hotmail.com*
Text: 0919-212-3230 / 0919-592-4258

ALL CONSUMERS WHO ARE INTERESTED TO EARN ADDITIONAL MONTHLY INCOME, & LOCAL SUPPLIERS MAY VISIT/CALL THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS CENTER OPERATIONS (BCOs):

METRO MANILA
RISE PHILS. CO. LTD.
Unit 823 Megaplaza (back of Robinsons Galleria)
Ortigas Complex, Pasig City
Tel. No. 687-43-11

MARIKINA CITY
LILIAN REYES REALTY
155G I. Mendoza St.,
San Roque, Marikina City
Tel. No. 646-8452

WESTERN VISAYAS/PANAY ISLAND
Mr. William (Bogs) Ferolino
RISE PHILS. MULTIRICH CORPORATION
2nd Flr. AMIGO PLAZA, Iznart St.
5000 Iloilo City
Telefax: (033)337-92-52 / Text: 0917-514-1369

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that the names and pictures below are no longer connected with **EAGLE-WINGS INTERNATIONAL CORP.** as of the date indicated under their names. Any transactions they made for and in behalf of the corporation shall not be honored.

DENNIS C. SIKAT
1572 Antipolo St.
Sampaloc, Manila
24 March 2001

MICHAEL R. LORENZO
#357 Felix Alejandro Street
Bunducan, Bocaue, Bulacan
19 May 2001

LOUIE R. FERRER
Santa Rosa II
Marilao, Bulacan
21 May 2001

WILFREDO R. FERNANDEZ
#6167 S. Feliciano Street
Mapulang Lupa, Valenzuela City
28 May 2001

(PDI--June 4, 2001)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue
Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Secretary

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) through the Health and Nutrition Center (HNC) is inviting all manufacturers/suppliers of powdered milk and liquid full cream milk for the bidding of 2,145,800 pcs. of powdered milk and 2,083,000 packs of liquid full cream milk for feeding of Grade 1 entrants in the identified nutritionally depressed areas nationwide.

All interested manufacturers/suppliers must submit a Letter of Intent before obtaining bid documents starting June 4 to 15, 2001 at the PBAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A Mabini Bldg., ULTRA Complex, Pasig City.

A pre-bid conference will be held on June 19, 2001, 10:00 AM at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. I, ULTRA Complex, Pasig City. The Submission and Opening of Bids will be on June 26, 2001 at the same time and place mentioned above.

DECS-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids.

(Sgd.) ERNESTO S. PANGAN
Undersecretary
Chairman, DECS-BAC

(PDI – June 3, 4 & 5, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
FIELD OPERATIONS
REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE NO 02
CAGAYAN VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER
City of Tuguegarao, Cagayan

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The Cagayan Valley Medical Center hereby invites all interested parties to pre-qualify and bid for the following:

A. Supply and delivery of various Drugs and Medicines, Medical/ Surgical Supplies, Laboratory Reagents, X-Ray & Dental supplies.
B. Hospital Equipment.
C. Office, Linen, Laundry and Housekeeping Supplies.

A pre-bidding conference will be held on June 18, 2001 at 9:00 A.M. at the Cagayan Valley Medical Center Conference Room, at which same venue the submission and opening of bids will be held on July 25, 2001 at 9:00 A.M. Pre-qualification and issuance of Bid documents will be from July 9-17, 2001

Only pre-qualified bidders will be issued bid documents and allowed to participate in the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00)

Interested qualified bidders may obtain further details from the Cagayan Valley Medical Center Pre-qualification Bids and Awards Committee.

CVMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids to waive any formality found therein or to accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) EMMANUEL F. ACLUBA, MD, MHA
Chief of Hospital III

(PDI--June 4, 7 & 11, 2001)

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PHILAMLIFE TOP PRODUCERS

Philamlife, recently honored the company's associates of the year for 2000 during the three-day national recognition program held at the Westin Philippine Plaza. Shown from left are EVP and chief marketing officer Jesus Hofileña, Abigail Salientes, top career agent and top of the Million Dollar Round Table Rosario Salientes, president and CEO Jose Cuisia, Jr., top unit manager Zenaida Antonio, top agency manager Isagani Antonio and EVP and chief agency officer Josefino Sto. Domingo. The annual national recognition program serves as a toast to the excellent sales performers of Philamlife.

PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga
Tel. No. 900-0689, 900-0474
Fax No. (0450 900-00-92)

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

PELCO II invites suppliers to apply for pre-qualification and if subsequently found qualified to bid for the **SUPPLY** and **DELIVERY** of:

Package 005-2001 : Concrete poles,
35' – 7A (50 pcs.)
30' – 7A (50 pcs.)
Package 006-2001 : Conductor duplex:
#2 – 5 reels
#1/0 – 5 reels
Package 007-2001 : Ladders, Hot Sticks, etc.
Package 008-2001 : OFFICE SUPPLIES

The pre-qualification forms may be secured from the PBAC Secretariat, PELCO II Main office, San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga, from June 06, 2001 to June 13, 2001 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ONE HUNDRED PESOS (P100.00). Pre-qualification forms shall be submitted not later than 5:00 p.m. on June 14, 2001.

Pre-Qualification meeting is scheduled on June 15, 2001 at 10:00 a.m. at Pelco II Main Building, San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga.

All pre-qualified bidders may obtain the necessary bid documents after paying a non-refundable fee of FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00) Main office at San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga.

Bidding will be announced later. For additional inquiries, please call the PBAC Secretariat at (045) 900 0474 or 900-0850.

(Sgd.) ENER D. PANGAN
Chairman
PELCO II - PBAC

(PDI - June 3, 4 & 5, 2001)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC AND DISCLAIMER

This is to inform the public, travel agents and clients that SABINA NOLAN, Filipino, 40 years old, with last known address at 8212 D. Constancia Street, Olympia, Makati, Metro Manila, has never been duly authorized at any time by PASRICHA TRAVEL AND TOURS, with principal place of business at San Luis Building, corner Ma. Orosa Street and T.M. Kalaw Street, Ermita, Manila to transact business for and in its behalf. The said SABINA NOLAN has never been employed nor connected with the said company in any capacity or representation whatsoever, and any transaction, ticketing, booking and tour operations, visa facilitation and all other activities pertinent to the business and related operations of Pasricha Travel and Tours by itself and/or the GSA of Sita World Travel entered into by SABINA NOLAN is not valid and will not be recognized and honored by the said company.

SABINA NOLAN has been directed to cease and desist from using the company name Pasricha Travel and Tours in any manner whatsoever, under pain of legal sanction.

(PDI--June 4, 2001)

At Don Bosco, we say "yes!" Tying a friend's shoelaces . . . Teaching a neighbor how to read . . . Helping mankind live. We know that little acts of kindness can snowball into great feats of goodness. And we take it upon ourselves to start these little acts of making a better world.

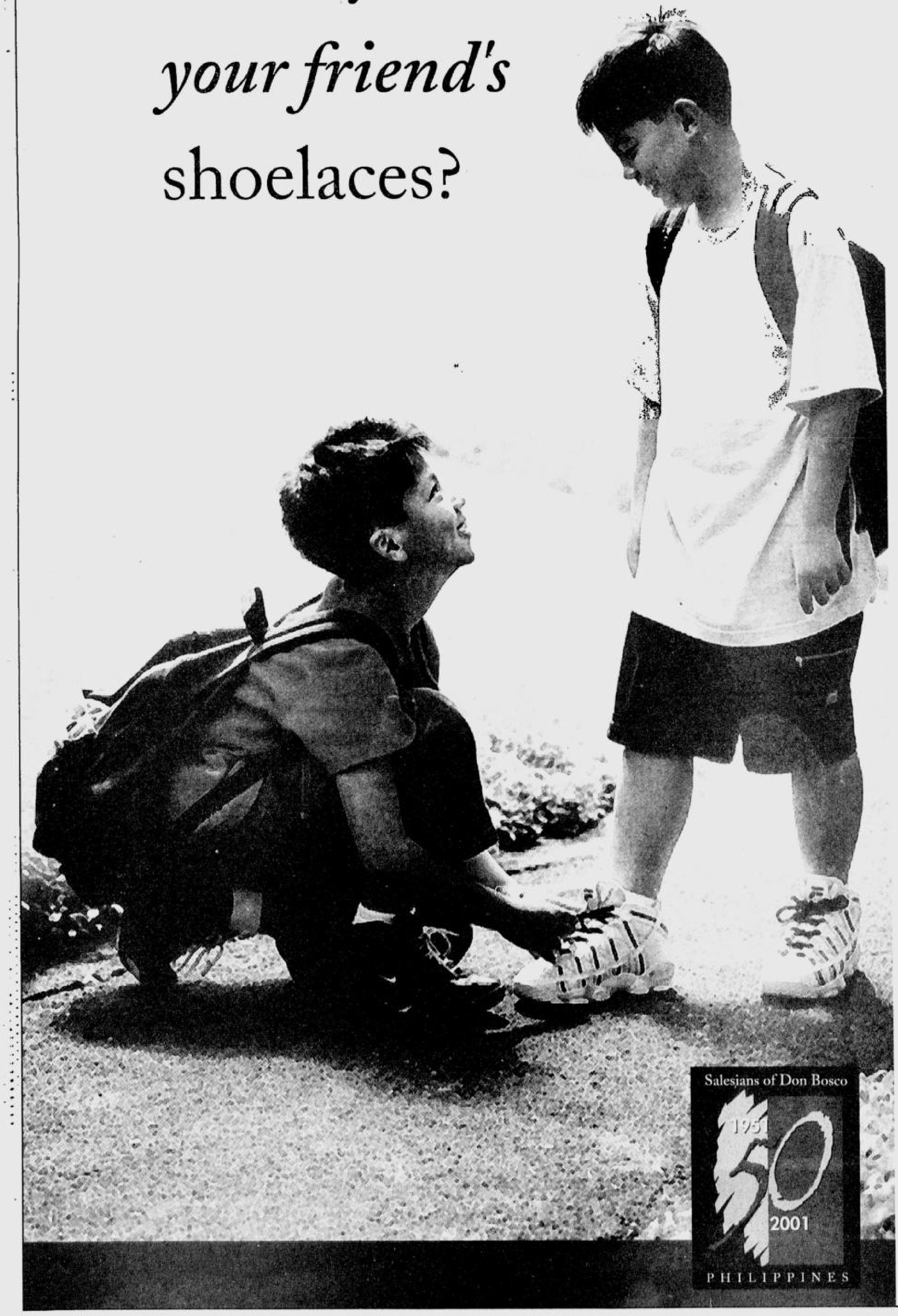
And how do we plan to go about it? Well, we believe that a strong society stands on a youthful bedrock of genuine service to the poor and less fortunate. This we call servanthood. We encourage the youth to dream with us and go about building this society. This we call leadership.

This year, on our Golden Jubilee in the Philippines, we make this covenant with the nation. We, the Salesians of Don Bosco, shall transform our young to become servant-leaders of our society—today.

Together with our lay mission partners, we dream of a nation where the qualifications of our leaders will be the service they have rendered to the people. We dream of a Church nurturing an emotional bond with the poor of our land. We dream of a skilled and value-possessed workforce that settles for nothing less than benchmark quality in their daily toil. We dream of young men and women who will not be satisfied being media and technology consumers, but lifetime learners. We dream of the different sectors of our society joining hands and reaching out for the sake of those who are lost and last. And our dreams are just the beginning.

For we will make sure our dreams turn into reality.

Would you tie *your friend's* shoelaces?



Salesians of Don Bosco

195

50

2001

PHILIPPINES

We have the manpower. 300 Salesians of Don Bosco from two ecclesial provinces in the Philippines wholly devoted to the total development of the Filipino youth.

We have the heirs apparent. More than 20,000 Bosconians in our schools and manpower training centers. Yearly, we graduate no less than a thousand engineers, technical teachers, technicians, and skilled workers, ready to move industry ahead. Add the thousands more of young people in our parishes and youth centers, networked through the nationwide Salesian Youth Movement.

We have the support system. Around a thousand teachers plus a huge army of support staff and volunteers. Factor in our 50,000 Don Bosco alumni, the fruit of fifty years of Don Bosco's educational apostolate in the country. We count on a mass base of no less than half a million parishioners and countless parents taking an integral role in the education of their own children. We are also linked with other worldwide organizations closely allied to the Salesian Family. Various academic, business, industrial, and community entities continually synergize with us for the education of the youth of our country.

Inspired by the unique style of education of Saint John Bosco called the Preventive System, we work for the youth in various schools, manpower skills training centers, youth centers, parishes, seminaries, retreat centers, and home for streetchildren. We also work for the vast multitudes of young people in the mission territories of Papua-New Guinea, East Timor, Indonesia and Pakistan, as well as the surrounding Asian countries. Missionaries from our provinces reach as far as Africa and the Middle East. Our commitment to the working class finds meaningful expression in ministering to our overseas Filipino workers in Europe and Japan.

We share a history of roughly one hundred and fifty years with the worldwide Salesian Congregation of 17,000 members, all dedicated to the education and evangelization of the young, in 128 countries. Here in the Philippines, we remain grateful for the wonderful things the Lord has done during these fifty years of Don Bosco in the Philippines. Obviously, God has done so much in so little time. It's all his dream, his track record.

With the recent developments in our country, the young have sent us the strong message that they do not belong to the margins of our society. They will not sit waiting for society to be handed over to them. They walk down the streets tirelessly for their convictions. They march to a future they themselves take pains to prepare. These are the future leaders of our country; ripe and ready for service. Servant-leaders in the making.

In Don Bosco, we believe we have reached the moment to power our dream. Let us put all our dreams for the young together. Let us seize this moment, join together for the young, with the young.

If someone could bend so low as to wash the feet of his friends, maybe, tying shoelaces wouldn't be less than a meaningful bother.

San Miguel launches new products

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOOD and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. is hedging against an economic slowdown by expanding its premium beer line to obtain a bigger market share among young beer drinkers.

In a statement, San Miguel said it recently launched new products here and abroad as part of "sustained efficiency initiatives to help rejuvenate the beer market."

Among the new products launched was "Texquilla" beer, a combination of beer and tequilla. This product brand targets the young beer drinkers.

San Miguel said it had also launched its "San Mig Light" and "Valor Ice" in China.

These moves, San Miguel said, was "expected to strengthen San Miguel's beer division's bid to tame the adverse effects of a foreseen economic slowdown and lower farm incomes this year."

Since its launching in 1999, San Miguel's San Mig Light has been contributing more than 80 percent of San Miguel's revenues from the premium beer category.

San Miguel said the aggressive expansion into China was based on the strong performance of its international operations.

"Operations in China, particularly in the North, are the biggest contributors in sales volume," it said.

San Miguel's total beer international operations, even without newly acquired J Boag & Son, posted an 8-percent volume increase in the first quarter.

San Miguel said San Miguel Packaging Products was gearing up for further growth this year through customer focus and continuing drive to become cost-competitive. In this year's first quarter, the packaging unit posted consolidated sales of P3.8 billion, 12 percent better than the level chalked up in the same quarter a year ago.

"SMPP's glass business has benefited most from operational efforts to reduce fixed cost with its operating income rising by 85 percent from 1999 to P978 million last year. Its year 2000 volume and revenue from domestic glass were up 18 percent and 30 percent respectively," it said.

In overseas, four of SMPP's five overseas joint venture subsidiaries registered a turnaround with a total revenue of P1.3 billion, 29 percent higher than that of 1999, and an operating income of P164 million compared with an operating loss of P11 million in 1999, San Miguel said.

Aboitiz to focus on acquiring smaller plants

By Elena R. Torrijos

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures Inc. is seen focusing on acquiring small government power plants despite the likely approval of the power reform bill, which will give it the opportunity to buy assets of the National Power Corp.

AEV executive vice president Erramon Aboitiz said instead of hooking up with a foreign group to acquire any one of the seven Napocor generating companies to be sold in line with the power reform bill, AEV was more interested in acquiring smaller assets such as the Binga and Ambuklao hydroelectric power plants.

"That's one alternative (tying up with a foreign group), but even if you tie up, what will you own? Five percent? It's not worth it," Aboitiz said. "We'll probably go for maybe the Binga, Ambuklao (plants), which are small, 100 megawatts, rather than go for the 1,000-megawatt (plants), which, for us, is still substantial."

Aboitiz said Napocor's generating companies would each require an average of $300 million to $500 million in investments compared with just $40 million for the rehabilitation of the Binga and Ambuklao power plants.

He said the company would easily use internally generated cash flow to finance P1 billion for any acquisition and would consider other ways to raise any balance required.

He said for the past three to four years, AEV had pumped in about P4 billion in new investments, mostly in the power sector. This year, however, the company does not have any major project in the pipeline.

"I would say on a sustainable basis we could handle a capex of about P1 billion a year. Basically, what we're doing is trying to conserve our resources and do more with what we have existing," Aboitiz said.

AEV's latest project includes the 70-megawatt build-operate-transfer project with Napocor in Logos and Benguet that was turned over last February.

The government recently awarded the Aboitiz group the right to operate the Tagaloan plant in Northern Mindanao.

Aboitiz said that the power reform bill was "workable" and was good for consumers.

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MEN AT WORK
JUNE 1 - 15, 2001

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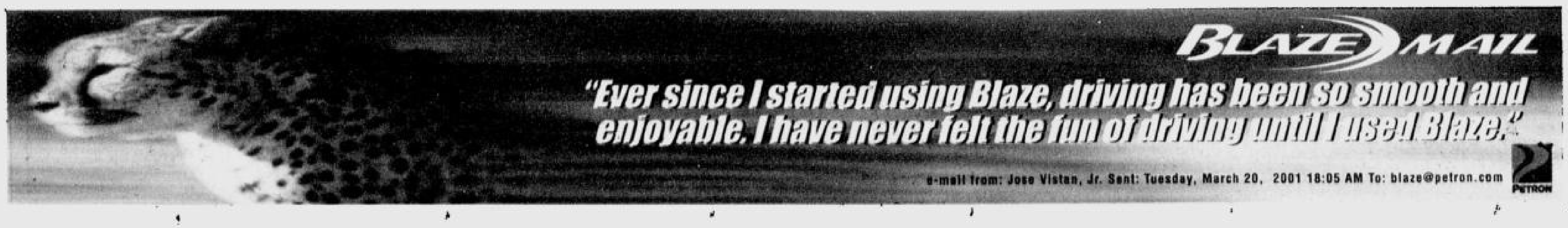
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PETRON

BUSINESS Monday

MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

Going away, Gokongwei?

BY MARGIE ESPINO, RAUL DANCEL, TINA DUMLAO AND ABIGAIL HO

TAIPAN John Robinson Gokongwei has been talking about retiring for a couple of years now but nobody really took him seriously.

After all he has been working steadily for six decades and has shown no signs of stopping.

At least, until a few days ago.

During the recent stockholders meeting of Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc., Gokongwei told reporters he was considering retiring.

"No more every day 9-9 job," says 'Mr. John,' the name given him by an employee, Pat Eustacio in the '70s to distinguish him from all the other Mr. Gos. Later, the taipan adopted "Gokongwei," the Chinese name of his father, John Sr.

But he is not quite sure and he says he will finally decide when he turns 75 in August.

For now he is taking time off, a lot of time. Daughter Lisa says Gokongwei is off to a cruise on Monday.

LANCE: "He deserves to rest. He worked all his life."

ROBINA: "He is welcome to borrow my son."

LISA: "My dad is an inspiration to all."

Robinson Crusoe

Lisa reveals her father added Robinson to his name midlife. "Because Robinson Crusoe was his childhood hero."

"He liked Crusoe because he lived by his wits and even when he was alone in an island, he was able to get shelter, clothing and food," she says

Gokongwei came from Gulangyu isle, Fujian province in the south China coast. He grew up in Cebu, where his father was well-to-do, having owned the largest chain of theaters.

When his father died, he left a lot of debt and everything was seized from the family. Gokongwei has four brothers and oe sister.

Lisa says her grandmother then sent off her children, except John, to China as the cost ofliving there was cheaper.

Lisa adds her grandmother sold all her jewelry to supprt her children. Later she sold penuts to support herself. John wa sent to live with a grand uncle, Manuel, who treated him like his own son.

Gokongwei's sibligs stayed in China for about severto 10 years.

When war broke out, Gokongwei had to fend for himself.

When he was 15, he would buy goods in Cebu, travel by boat to Lucena, go to Manila and peddle the goods. Later on he bought goods in Manila to sell in Cebu.

It was a harrowing trip that took about a week but it sharpened his entrepreneurial skills.

He took the trip every three months, and would sometimes sit on top of his own goods during the travel. He bought and sold rice and salt. He grew up a trader and when he saved enough from trading, he opened his first manufacturing venture, the Universal Corn Product, maker of cornstarch.

"MR. JOHN" to decide when he turns 75 in August.

Today, Gokongwei is still a trader but his biggest ventures are in manufacturing.

His holdings include the Universal Robina Corp., a food conglomerate; Robinson's Land Corp., which manages several malls; Cebu Pacific Air, an airline; Robinson's Savings Bank; JG Summit, which is a holding company with diverse operations that include publishing.

At one time he had shareholdings in the former PCIBank and Far East Bank. He also used to own The Manila Times.

He has landed in the list of the world's richest.

GOING/ C2

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SM honors new grads

SM FOUNDATION recently honored 76 new graduates of its College Scholarship Program at the SM Megamall's Megatrade Hall. SM founder and chairman Henry Sy Sr. and Felicidad Sy personally met the new graduates and their parents.

Also present were SM Foundation's Board of Trustees member Dr. Paulino Tan and Project Director Nilda Bernaldez.

During the program, Emmanuel Millar, who graduated magna cum laude from the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila said in his message that there are three kinds of scholars.

The first, Scholar AB is fairly well off and does not have to strive. Scholar CD, on the other hand is very intelligent, but sadly has no time for himself. And then, says Millar, who took a BS Computer Engineering course and now works with NEC, "there is the SM Scholar, whom the program molds to become a scholar with a heart."

Anne Doloroso (magna cum laude, BSE Major in English) and Jomar Chua (cum laude, BSE Major in Mathematics) also thanked SM Foundation in behalf of the other scholars.

The other graduates echoed these sentiments. "Being part of the program has given us a sense of belonging," says Mildred Mantua (cum laude, Philippine Normal University) who is now undergoing in-service training at the Nazareth School.

"Although we come from different schools, we bonded during our monthly meetings and other activities like the Quiz Bees."

Likewise, "we acquired a first hand on-the-job experience during summer breaks," says Melvin Ocampo (cum laude, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila)." He got "to meet people, learn to value my work and earn money " when he was assigned at the Gift Wrapping section, and Baggage counter at SM stores. Ronald Allan Belleza (cum laude), says that these on-the-job training experiences taught him "time management, independence and responsibility.

SM Foundation's College Scholarship Program began in 1993 and has 400 scholars at any given time. It was established to be of help to poor but deserving students who wish to take further studies in the field of Education, Chemistry, Computer and Electronics Engineering, and other similar courses.

Rethinking management education–Part II

MAPping THE FUTURE

Niceto S. Poblador, Ph.D.

SEVERAL months back, I wrote in this column a similarly titled piece (PDI, 19 June 2000). In that essay, I noted that management programs currently offered by business schools tend to give a fragmented view of the management process, and should therefore be re-conceptualized to make them more holistic and integrative in approach.

In particular, I proposed that management education should move away from the traditional approach of designing courses around management functions such as finance or marketing, and instead build them around the types of problems or issues faced by managers today.

In this essay, I shall outline what I think is a useful integrating framework for my proposed program for graduate management education.

I start by defining the firm as a value creating enterprise. This definition applies equally to not-for profit organizations such as NGOs and cause-oriented organizations in general. This definition specifies the *raison d'eire* of organizations and provides the basis for articulating visions, missions and goals.

In keeping with the resource-dependence theory of organizations, the firm is viewed as an enterprise which draws resources from various sources, and among which the value created by it is appropriated. This system of "exchange" is accomplished through the implementation of contracts, both implicit and explicit, arrangements which govern the entire range of activities within the enterprise, and between the enterprise and the various entities with which it interacts.

The different contributors of resources to the firm have a stake in the enterprise. Aside from the shareholders, who bear the bulk of the risk and have a claim to the firm's residual income, the other stakeholders include the firm's customers, its employees, and the community at large.

Concern for the interests of these stakeholders provides the basis for the formation of moral value and norms of conduct for managerial choice and behavior.

Two recent theoreticaldevelopments in organizational economts provide the basic conceptual tools fo the study of management.

Concepts associated wih the principal-agent theory of the fim govern the interactions within the orgnization between the shareholders (th principals) and its employees and managers (the agents who act on their behlf).

Those associated with th economics of transaction costs are relvant to the analysis of interaction between the enterprise and its publics.

The proposed program ha two major thrusts or directions. One is**Enterprise Resource Management**, which is concerned with the maximizaton of economic value created by theenterprise. This consists of all activitie that have to do with both the acquisiion of resources from the various contibutors of inputs to the enterprise, and th effective utilization of these inputs. Thee distinct modules can be subsumed nder this thrust:

Managing the Vertical Dnensions of Enterprise. This module is oncerned with the task of choosing the ppropriate set of linkages in the valuechain for the enterprise. It deals with suh topics as:

- Make or buy decisions (orleciding between firm and market goveaance)
- Networking and the virtua organization
- Alternatives to vertical intgration
- The holdup problem

Managing the Horizontal Dimensions of Enterprise, which is concerned with decisions affecting the size of the enterprise and the choice of product/service mix. Under this heading are the following topics:

- The management of technology
- Product development
- Product diversification

The third module under this thrust is ***Managing Organizational Culture.*** This module views organizational culture as the major force that brings together individual and group behavior in the organization into a coherent set of activities which may be harnessed to the full advantage of the organization.

In particular, it is through organizational culture that the organization can be transformed into a self-organizing and continuously adaptive social system.

We view such a continuously learning organization as the only effective way to survive and prosper in an increasingly complex and unpredictable environment. The following topics are included in this module:

- Designing the organization's structure and control system
- Values creation
- Managing change through knowledge and innovation

The other major program thrust is **Creating Stakeholder Value.** It is complementary to the one discussed earlier, and reflects a major departure from the traditional view of the firm as a profit maximizer.

This thrust takes explicit cognizance of the fact that organizational survival and performance depends ultimately on the organization's ability to continuously draw resources from its stakeholders. The modules included in this program thrust are intended to provide enterprise managers with the needed insights for managing resources in a manner that will optimally benefit ALL stakeholders. These are:

- The design of efficient employee incentives packages
- Enhancing the value delivery system
- The enterprise and its environment

We propose that the typical MBA program be recast in terms of our suggested framework. In this way, the different course offerings can be viewed a parts of a coherent academic program, all contributing to a consistent set of learning objectives, rather than as a plethora of loosely connected subjects.

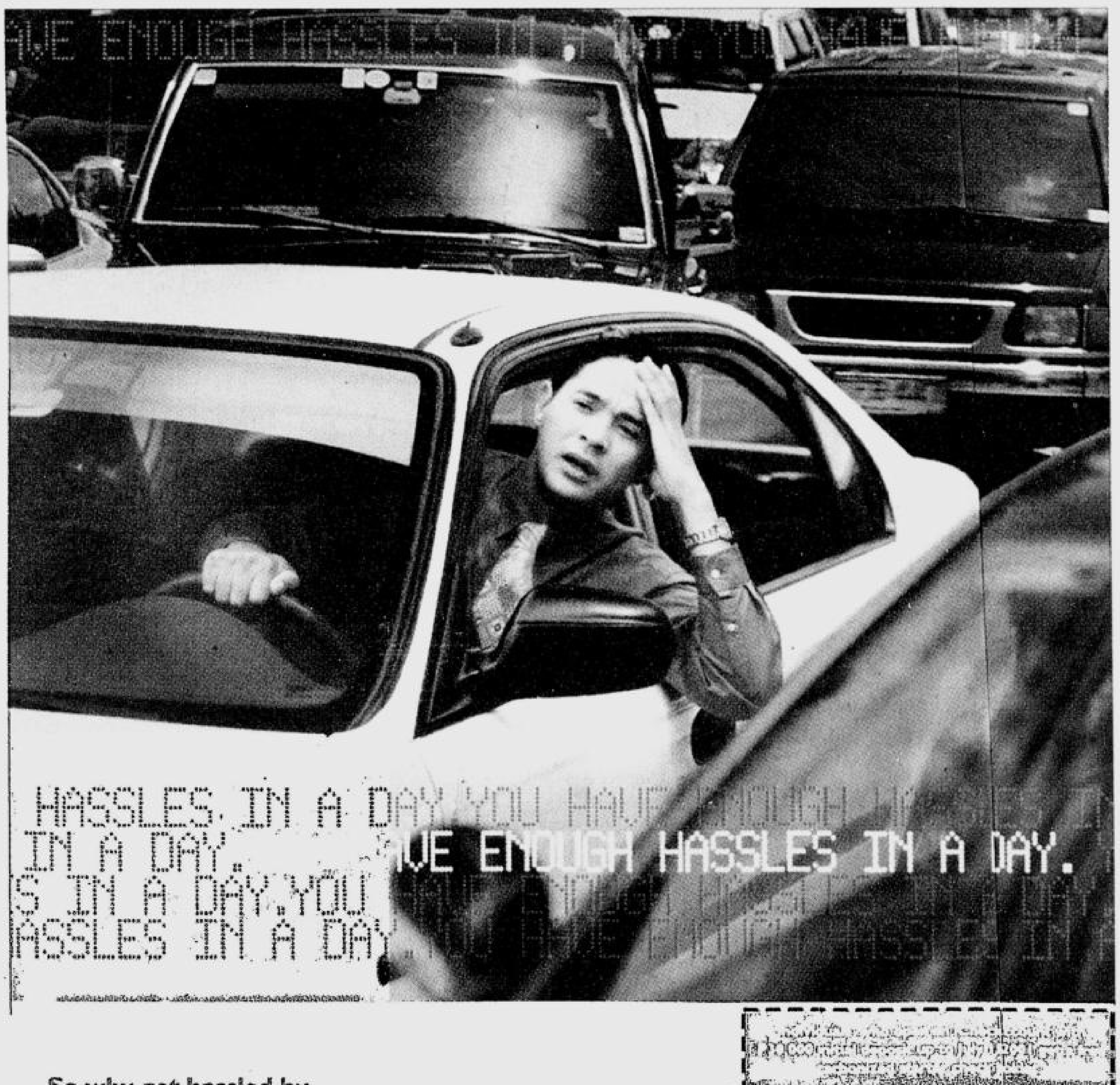
We believe that it will vastly enhance the efficacy of the learning process without sacrificing substantive content.

As we have stressed earlier, the proposed program is based largely on a conceptual framework that draws heavily from the newly emergent field of organizational economics. Concepts such as agency costs, information asymmetries, opportunistic behavior, adverse selection, and moral hazard will therefore be relevant in the design of the various modules.

These concepts, along with the notion of opportunity cost, external effects, and other more familiar economic concepts, will comprise part of the "genetic" components of the substantive coverage of the proposed program.

These elements can be combined in innumerable ways in dealing creatively with today's complex and fast-paced business environment. Viewing management problems in terms of these generic concepts will free managers from heavy reliance on "best practices," "benchmarking" or "generally accepted management principles" in dealing with the unique and extremely complex management problems that they face today.

We strongly believe that these formulas, which may have been useful in the past, are inappropriate in dealing with today's ever-changing business environment. (*This article reflects the personal views of the author who is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines and professional lecturer at the University of the Philippines. The MAP Secretariat and the author may be reached via mapsec@globe.com.ph.)*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Going away, Gokongwei?

(From page C1)

Gokongwei considers himself young enough and still capable of running a business empire but he also believes his children are capable of running his companies.

BROTHER James is next in line

Who'll take over

Only son, Lance, says his father has not yet decided whether he will retire or not.

"I'll just make a comment when he retires. I would want him to make his decision first," says Lance, who is armed with a double degree in business administration and engineering graduating summa cum laude from the Wharton Business School.

Lance is currently director and executive vice president of JG Summit Holdings. He was named one of last year's Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) of the Philippines in the field of business leadership.

He says he is happy that his father is considering retiring.

"It's good. He deserves to rest. He has worked hard all his life," says Lance.

Lance adds, however, that if his father retires, he will not be the one who will sit at the helm of the empire.

"My uncle James will be given the chairmanship, not me," he said.

He is referring to Gokongwei's brother, James Go, current JG Summit director, president and chief operating officer.

This is echoed by former Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Gabriel C. Singson and now consultant of the Gokongwei group.

"If Mr. Gokongwei retires, he will most likely be chairman emeritus. He will be very much there," Singson says.

Asked if things will be any different if his father does decide to retire, Lance says their business is not a one-man show, so decisions will be made as a "collegial body. It's the combined wisdom of the body—the excom, the board."

Still around

Gokongwei's eldest child, Robina, expects her father to continue to be somehow involved in the conglomerate even if he does retire.

"After working so long, I don't think that he will be content doing nothing. He'll definitely still be around," Robina says.

She also expects her father to stay home, be involved in the philanthropic work of the Gokongwei Brothers foundation and also read more.

"He loves to read. There is this pile of books on his bed that separates him and my mom," Robina says.

Robina recalls that her father always had his family as his priority even if he was busy building his company.

"I remember us having dinner every day at 7 p.m. He came home much earlier than we, the children, do now. Maybe because business was less complex then," Robina says.

She adds that her father was always sincere in the way he dealt with people and this trait is something that she tries to emulate.

"He is not *maarte* at all. What you see is what you get," she says.

Robina, who sits as senior vice president of Robinson's, says her father taught all of them the value of hard work, thus, they were not spoiled at all even if they did grow up reaping the rewards of their father's work.

"Dad always told us that if you don't work, you won't eat. You cannot spoil your kids if you believed in that," Robina says.

Gokongwei may not have spoiled the kids, but it's a different story with his two grandchildren.

"There are only two grandchildren in his family and he wants more. I would like to tell him that he can borrow my son whenever he wants," Robina says.

Legacy

Gokongwei built his company in almost the same way as his family, with dedication and loving care. But like any parent, he has to let go.

Lisa is confident that her father has prepared the companies well for his inevitable retirement.

"If there is any company that is prepared for the retirement of its founder, it's JG. The transition to be a very professional organization started a long time ago when it went public. My father really planned it so that the second generation will not screw it all up," Lisa says.

She believes that Gokongwei's legacy goes far beyond than just the Gokongwei group.

"This is an example of a man who made good as an entrepreneur. He is a perfect example, a quintessential entrepreneur. It is very inspiring that I have a father who has set a good example for all of us," she adds.

SWS polls reflected real election results

By Dennis M. Arroyo

SENATORIAL RANKINGS The poll rankings are well known: Rank	Candidate	Survey (%)
1	De Castro (Ind/PnM)	59
2	Flavier (Lakas/PPC)	40
3-4	Arroyo (Lakas/PPC)	39
3-4	Osmeña (PDP/PPC)	39
5-7	Pangilinan (LP/PPC)	38
5-7	Magsaysay (Ind/PPC)	38
5-7	Drilon (Ind/PPC)	38
8-9	Villar (Ind/PPC)	37
8-9	Angara (LDP/PnM)	37
10-13	Recto (Lakas/PPC)	35
10-13	Lacson (LDP/PnM)	35
10-13	Ejercito (Ind/PnM)	35
10-13	Honasan (Ind/PnM)	35

HERE'S one piece of information from the mass of data arising from the Social Weather Stations exit polls. Those who had much trust in President Macapagal-Arroyo voted 11-2, in favor of administration candidates for the Senate. Those who had little trust in her voted 2-11.

The more accurate term is "day of election" surveys, rather than exit polls. SWS interviewed the respondents in their homes rather than at the precincts.

The SWS May 14, 2001 national survey deployed 1,034 field personnel. They interviewed 5,446 voters with indelible ink, and this yielded national-level error margins of 1.2 percent.

"About nine out of 10 voters (88 percent) agreed with the survey test statement, 'Voting was clean and free in our precinct,' while only 5 percent disagreed and 7 percent were undecided," reported SWS Fellow Gerardo Sandoval.

However, there were fears of "*dagdag-bawas*," or cheating as the votes were being counted. Voters were asked how likely was the prospect of "*dagdag-bawas*" in their province or city. According to the survey, 13 percent said it would surely happen, 23 percent said it probably might happen, 39 percent said it probably might not happen and 25 percent said it would surely not happen.

Turnout was very high, at 89 percent of voters nationwide and 83 percent in Metro Manila. ***(See table.)***

"As expected, the overall score in the exit poll was eight seats for the People Power Coalition, four for the Puwersa ng Masa coalition, and one for the topnotcher Noli de Castro," wrote SWS president Mahar Mangahas.

This was to be expected, based on the most recent pre-election surveys. But there was a new element in the political terrain.

"However, the real news in the May 4-7 SWS survey was the emergence of former first lady Loi Ejercito-Estrada as a serious contender for the first time," continued Mangahas. "I would say that it resulted from the unprecedented arrest and detention of the former President, and not from the May 1 violence, which most Filipinos reject."

Influence of religion

Here was the division of national votes by religion: those for the People Power Coalition followed by the Puwersa ng Masa. For example, 13-0 meant a sweep in favor of the People Power Coalition, while 0-13 was a sweep for the Puwersa ng Masa.

Was religion a factor? These were the results:

Catholics	8-5
Iglesia ni Cristo	8-5
Muslims	9-3-1 (the last for the PDSP)
Other religions	7-6

The Catholic and Iglesia ni Cristo vote followed expectations. More intriguing results were found when the data for charismatic groups were isolated.

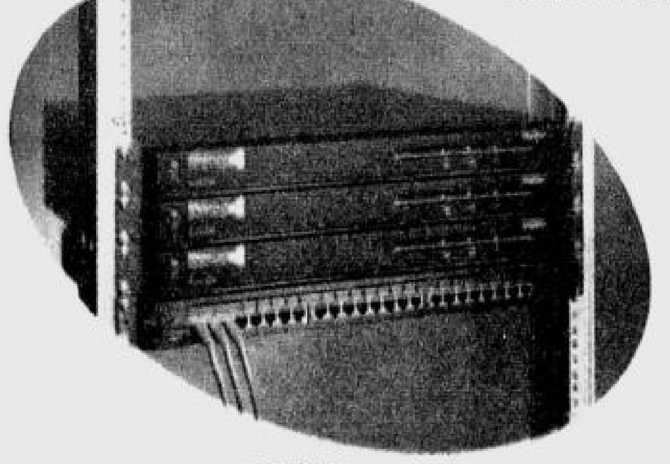
Couples for Christ	11-2
El Shaddai	5-8
Other charismatics	9-4
Non-charismatic	8-5

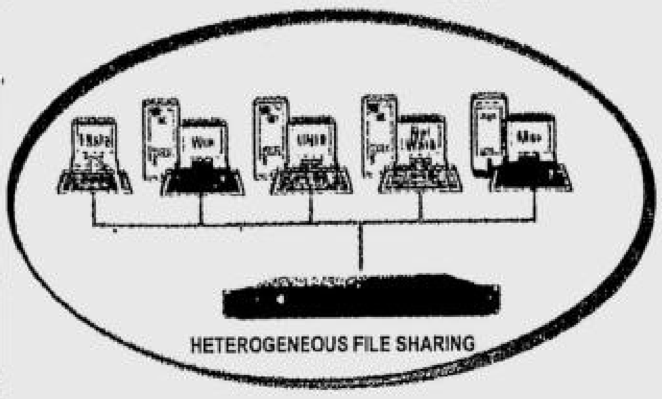
The Couples for Christ was the largest charismatic group, at 4 percent of the adult population. The El Shaddai numbered 2 percent.

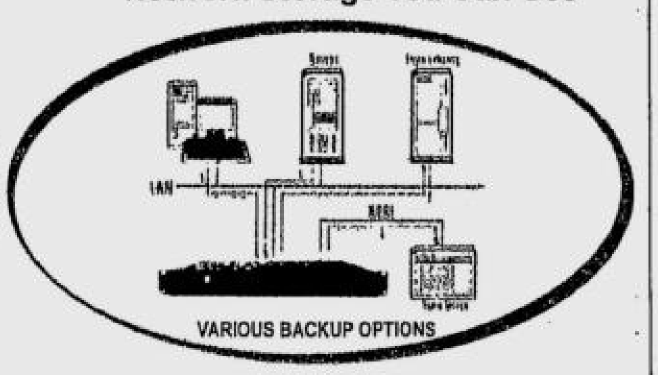
Sharp class divide in Metro Manila

Then the national data were disaggregated by class. Class AB was the elite, C was the middle

SWS /C4







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Venues can make or break a conference

MEETINGS and conferences are more than just an excuse for people to spend a few hours away from the office, enjoy free flowing coffee and enjoy a buffet lunch or dinner. These are rare occasions to share knowledge and to be abreast of the latest developments in a particular industry or business trend.

More care, thus, should be given in planning these conferences to ensure that the speakers, participants and guests will be comfortable enough to listen and gain new knowledge from the conference.

The Mandarin Oriental, reputedly one of the country's best business hotels, put together an organizer's checklist to help put up a successful meeting or conference as part of its recently concluded corporate meetings fair.

At least six months before:

- Identify the objective of the meeting.
- Choose the date, time, and venue of the meeting.
- Plan details with your professional congress organization, if any.
- Start making attendance list and study attendees' background.
- Develop a preliminary budget.

At least four months before:

- Inquire for booking and suitability of meeting packages for your attendees.
- Check out the potential venue of the meeting.
- Determine the cancellation and deposit policies of the hotel or a conference area.

Monching Romano says in "Power Places, The Guide to Meeting, Incentive, Convention and Exhibition Venues" that booking a venue is not as easy as it seems. Organizers have to compete for venues with other companies because events are mostly dictated by business cycles.

Planning conferences are usually booked in January, quarterly sales conferences by the end of the each quarter, summer outings in March and April, and Christmas parties in December. It pays, he says, to book the venue as early as possible.

Three months before:

- Start searching for credible speakers .
- Make business and daily social agenda.
- Finalize contract with the speakers.
- Start initial mailing list.
- Coordinate travel arrangement of the guests, speakers and participants.
- Arrange ground transportation needs.
- Consider special arrangements for VIPs and handicapped attendees.
- Finalize the mailing list and send reservation notice for the participants.
- Schedule an ocular of the function rooms, guest rooms, food and beverage outlets.

Six weeks before:

- Develop registration forms and handout materials.
- Prepare the signage, company logo and badges.
- Finalize the meeting agenda.
- Send thank you notes to your speakers and participants.

Three weeks before:

Discuss the following with the sales account manager:

- final participant count
- menu, specifying any special dietary requirements
- beverages to be served
- discuss sequence and timing of food service
- guest room requirements of the speakers/participants
- transportation requirements of the speakers/participants
- function room requirements; break-out rooms; specification sheets of each function room
- equipment needed; A/V contractors, if any
- physical setup of the function rooms; promotional materials (banners, signages,. streamers, backdrops)
- pocket events within the conference; entertainers; cocktails
- special tours that can be arranged by in-house travel agencies; extra-curricular activities that can be arranged by the concierge
- billing arrangements; prepare letter of authorization, if needed
- hotel policies on deposits and billings
- finalize the handout materials, conference materials and supplies
- make newspaper announcements such as press releases and print ad

One week before:

- Schedule coordination meeting with the key personnel involved in the event (i.e. banquet sales, banquet service, front office, reservations, engineering).
- Check the rooming list of all

VENUES/ C4

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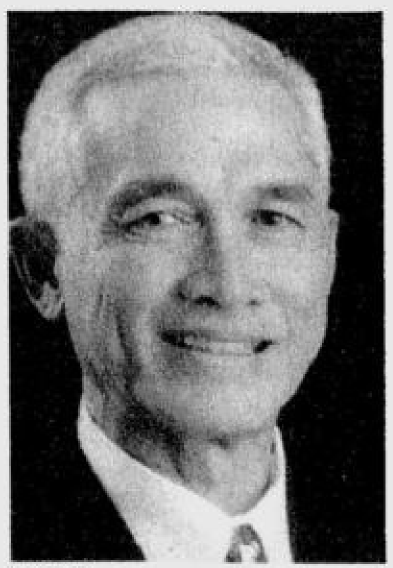
Rural banks to move away from countryside

By Gary B. Teves
President and CEO
Land Bank of the Philippines


TEVES

THE ENTIRE 21st century is too long. As the famous British economist John Maynard Keynes used to say, "In the long run, we are all dead." Thus, to come up with a clearer vision, I have set a timeline that covers the period until 2020.

What will the Philippines look like 20 years from now? How will the rural banking industry look like after 20 years? Let us first consider the macroeconomic scenario.

Macro-economy 2020

The Philippine population is projected to reach 100 million by the year 2020 from 76 million at present.

The country's per capita income is projected to reach $2,500 from the current level of a little over $1,000. And poverty incidence will drop to 15 percent (from the present 32.7 percent).

The significant reduction in poverty will be due to the combination of countryside and agriculture development; rapid growth of exports of goods and services as globalization takes place; and continuing investments in human resource development through delivery of quality basic, including early childhood education and the active participation of the private sector in tertiary education.

Quality education will result in an abundance of English-speaking knowledge workers, leading the Philippines to become a premier knowledge center in Asia.

As a knowledge center, the country's services sector will be predominant in the national economy. The services sector is projected to account for over 60 percent of GDP (from 45 percent) and over 50 percent (from 46 percent) of the labor force by 2020.

Now, let's focus on the equally important agricultural sector as this will have a major impact on the rural economy where rural banks operate.

Balanced growth

By 2020, the Philippines will have a more balanced growth. Manufacturing will shrink and services will expand. Agriculture will become more productive and will continue to be the main occupation of rural folks.

Continued improvement in agricultural productivity will also enable us to modernize the Philippine countryside, reduce poverty incidence and provide food security for the nation.

In general, the 2020 scenario is encouraging yet challenging because of the many business opportunities. Trade and investment prospects will improve as the economy picks momentum. Thus, rural banks will have to keep pace with these developments.

Trends in rural banking

The megatrends in rural banking will be characterized by rapid growth, network expansion and consolidation. Rural banks will grow in size and scope. Many rural banks will penetrate different provinces in the region where they operate, even go out of their areas of coverage and explore nearby regions.

In the next 20 years, we will see the emergence of regional rural banks wherein one rural bank will have a dominant position in one region.

More rural banks will also realize the importance of consolidation and mergers. This logical move started some years back as shown by the First Consolidated Bank Inc. (FCB) in Bohol and the Network Rural Bank in Mindanao. In the case of FCB, it was a consolidation of 14 rural banks based in the province of Bohol.

Another long-term trend in the industry is the transformation of rural banks into "financial supermarkets" or "one-stop shops."

Non-traditional financial products will be added to the current range of deposits and loans. A rural bank client will most likely find a wide array of financial products that cater to his various needs. This will include life and non-life insurance, mutual funds, government securities and shares in listed companies, ATMs, credit cards and remittance services.

Likewise, the recent directive from BSP lifting the ban on the

RURAL/ C5

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SWS polls . . .

(From page C3)

class, D respondents were the poor, and E comprised the very poor.

Class ABC	11-2
Class D	8-5
Class E	6-7

The Metro Manila findings were striking:

Class AB	9-4
Class C	11-2
Class D	9-4
Class E	2-11

In Metro Manila, the People Power Coalition dominated the rich, the middle class, and the poor. The striking exception was the destitute class E. The Puwersa ng Masa was not the party of the poor, but of the very poor.

What about education levels? Those who just finished elementary school were for the Puwersa ng Masa.

College graduates	11-2
Some college, vocational education	8-5
Up to high school grad	7-6
Up to elementary grad	6-7

Making their decision early

During the 2001 campaign, when did voters decide on their bets? A large fraction had their minds made up a month or more ago:

Time of vote decision:	
Only now	22%
A week ago	16
Two weeks ago	7.8
Three weeks ago	6.6
A month ago or longer	47

How helpful were sample ballots? The Metro Manila scores on helpfulness:

Much	55%
Neither much nor little	14
Little	27

In turn, how helpful were political ads in Metro Manila?

Much	65%
Neither much nor little	12
Little	21

Trust and distrust

The national survey asked on public trust for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and former President Joseph Estrada. While 45 percent had Much Trust for GMA, 22 percent had Little Trust for her, for a margin of trust of +23 percentage points.

As for Erap, the scores were 40 percent for Much Trust versus 36 percent for Little Trust, for a margin of +4.

Trust for these two leaders impacted much on the distribution of votes.

Among those with Much Trust for President GMA, the count was 11-2, while among those with Little Trust, it was 2-11. In turn, among those with Much Trust for ex-President Estrada, the distribution was 4-9, while among those with Little Trust, it was 12-1.

The public was divided on the issue on former President Estrada's self-enrichment. Those who believed he enriched himself while in office numbered 46 percent, while 53 percent did not believe the plunder charges.

Voting followed the split in belief. Among those who believed in the charges, the voting was 12-1. But among those who did not believe in them, it was 5-8. *(Comments at dmarroyo@hotmail.com)*

Venues . . .

(From page C3)

participants, especially VIPs.

- Finalize the changes made, if any.
- Prepare speakers' A/V needs.
- Test equipment before meeting starts.
- Finalize the menu with the catering sales staff.

Two days before:

- Brief the registration staff regarding procedures and schedule.
- Check the facility of each meeting room.
- Test all A/V equipment; cooling systems; projectors.
- Check stage backdrop; discuss changes with banquet service artist, if any.

Conference proper:

- Make sure handout materials are on the table.
- Check the lighting controls/A/V equipment.
- Check directional signages.
- Review billing with your sales account manager after each day.

After the event:

- Have your evaluation form filled out by the participants.
- Settle all billings.
- Clear all rooms of company materials.

Wall Street ads change with market downturn

NEW YORK—It's late 1999, Wall Street is Easy Street and America is in stitches as Stuart, the Web-savvy office slacker, shows his middle-aged boss Mr. P. how to trade online in a popular TV commercial.

"The wave of the future, my man," Stuart tells Mr. P. in Internet brokerage Ameritrade's cult hit, one of several edgy advertisements featuring the neon-haired copyboy glamorizing "do-it-yourself" investing.

As the longest bull run in Wall Street's history pressed on, Stuart was the poster child of easy-money heroes depicted in pervasive advertisements. There was Morgan Stanley Discover brokerage's tow-truck-driver-turned-trader, who mulled what to call the island he bought with his investing riches.

Celebrities like Ringo Starr, the ex-Beatles drummer, talked high finance against a background of upbeat music in a hip commercial for Charles Schwab Corp.

Now fast forward to the spring of 2001, flip the dial to financial network CNBC, and see the stark difference in ad agency output now that the market bears have awakened from a long hibernation, and finance houses are hit with dwindling profits due in part to a slowdown in stock trading.

The prolonged stock slump, which brought a drop of nearly 68 percent in the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite Index from top to bottom, has led investors to trade less and open fewer accounts. Merrill Lynch & Co., the world's largest brokerage, has reported a 21-percent decline in first-quarter profits, while Schwab saw quarterly profits drop 63 percent.

Financial television viewers now are bombarded by a daily salvo of Schwab commercials, but now Ringo has been tossed and the new pitchman is a no-nonsense Charles Schwab himself, the founder of the No. 1 US discount and online broker.

Calming anxious investors, imploring him for both investment advice and hand-holding, Schwab coos, "First, just relax . . . investing is about the long term."

The discount-trading patriarch tells them he has seen at least 12 other "serious" market corrections in his 30 years on Wall Street. The

WALL STREET/ C7

Rural banks . . .

(From page C4)

opening of new thrift and rural banks to strengthen microfinance will force you to penetrate the lower markets. More small borrowers in the countryside will then be reached.

Consequently, the aggressive branching of commercial banks will drive more rural banks deeper into the rural areas.

In the next 20 years, the industry will also experience an expansion in its customer base. A larger market with higher purchasing power and more sophisticated financial requirements will emerge. You will have to upgrade your banking facilities and work on your core competencies or niche to be able to address the needs of your clients.

Core competencies of rural banks

The rural banks' clear, competitive advantage over commercial banks is the familiarity with the people in your area. This is one strong point that these banks can build on.

Unlike commercial banks, these banks have fewer requirements and faster processing. Speed, coupled with efficiency, and care for clients are strong incentives for them to do business with rural banks.

Landbank's assistance to rural banks

Landbank, for its part, has always regarded rural banks as its dependable allies and partners in delivering credit in the countryside.

As of end-2000, a total of 460 rural banks were accredited as Landbank conduits for loans. Landbank's loan releases to farmers and fisherfolk cooperatives coursed through rural banks reached P8.1 billion last year.

Landbank also continues to package new programs that benefit your industry. We will soon launch the CFIs Home Lending Program.

This will cater to the needs of rural folks for mass housing. This is part of our commitment to the Multi-Window Lending System to which we earmarked P6 billion. This program covers socialized, low and medium-cost housing.

In the next few weeks, a new product known as the Rediscounting Window for Term Loans will be available. This program will address the need for a long-term facility for clients. Among the projects eligible for financing are: long gestating crop production; poultry, livestock and aquaculture; agri-business and agro-processing; manufacturing; and trading.

Finally, we have recently entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Agriculture to set up financing schemes for non-collateralized farmers and fisherfolk.

Under this program, two schemes will be piloted for implementation: one is a special financing window and loan portfolio guarantee; and the other is a "location-specific" and "client-focused" financing scheme.

The first involves the opening of a credit line or a rediscounting facility to be administered by Landbank.

It will be made available to rural lending agents to encourage them to lend to non-collateralized farmers and fisherfolk. Under this scheme, the rediscounted amount for CFIs will be increased from 85 percent to 100 percent of the loan value of the promissory notes or sub-loans.

The second involves a "location specific" credit financing scheme which will tailor-fit financing to conform to the farm household's cash flow. Since farmers will also be encouraged to diversify their agribusinesses and undertake other off-farm or non-farm micro-enterprises, their paying capacity to lending institutions is expected to improve.

The 2020 challenge for rural banks

The challenges for rural banks in the new emerging economy will require institutional adjustments, improvements in your operations, as well as a new mindset.

For one, rural banks will have to focus on a niche market as a core strategy. This will depend on the economic activities in the area. For example, in highly agricultural provinces, rural banks can target the cooperatives, market vendors, agri-processors and traders.

The same strategy goes for regions where majority of the population is engaged in small and medium enterprises.

Rural banks should understand their operations and offer them the products and services they need so that they can address their specific requirements. In brief, determine the resource profile of the area of operation, build the niche in that market and excel in it.

Second, linking with commercial banks is also inevitable with the advent of information technology or IT. This is to strengthen clearing operations and address international trade requirements.

This may require rural banks to set up a strong IT platform. But the benefits will surely outweigh the cost of investments made in appropriate IT.

Third, forging institutional relations with other service-providers is another must if these banks want to broaden product offerings. For instance, banks can link with insurance companies or accredited government security dealers and sell their products to clients.

Lastly, a co-ownership scheme involving thrift banks, rural banks and cooperatives, with Landbank serving as the apex bank, would be worth considering. There are many advantages of this apex structure.

Rural banks can also link under a common ATM system as well as a standardized loan processing and accounting system for uniformity and ease in transaction. This could lead to a share swap or co-ownership of Landbank with rural banks as shareholders.

Summary

To recap, the economic trends in the next 20 years indicate the predominance of the service sector. Agriculture, however, will not be far behind as significant measures will be taken to modernize it.

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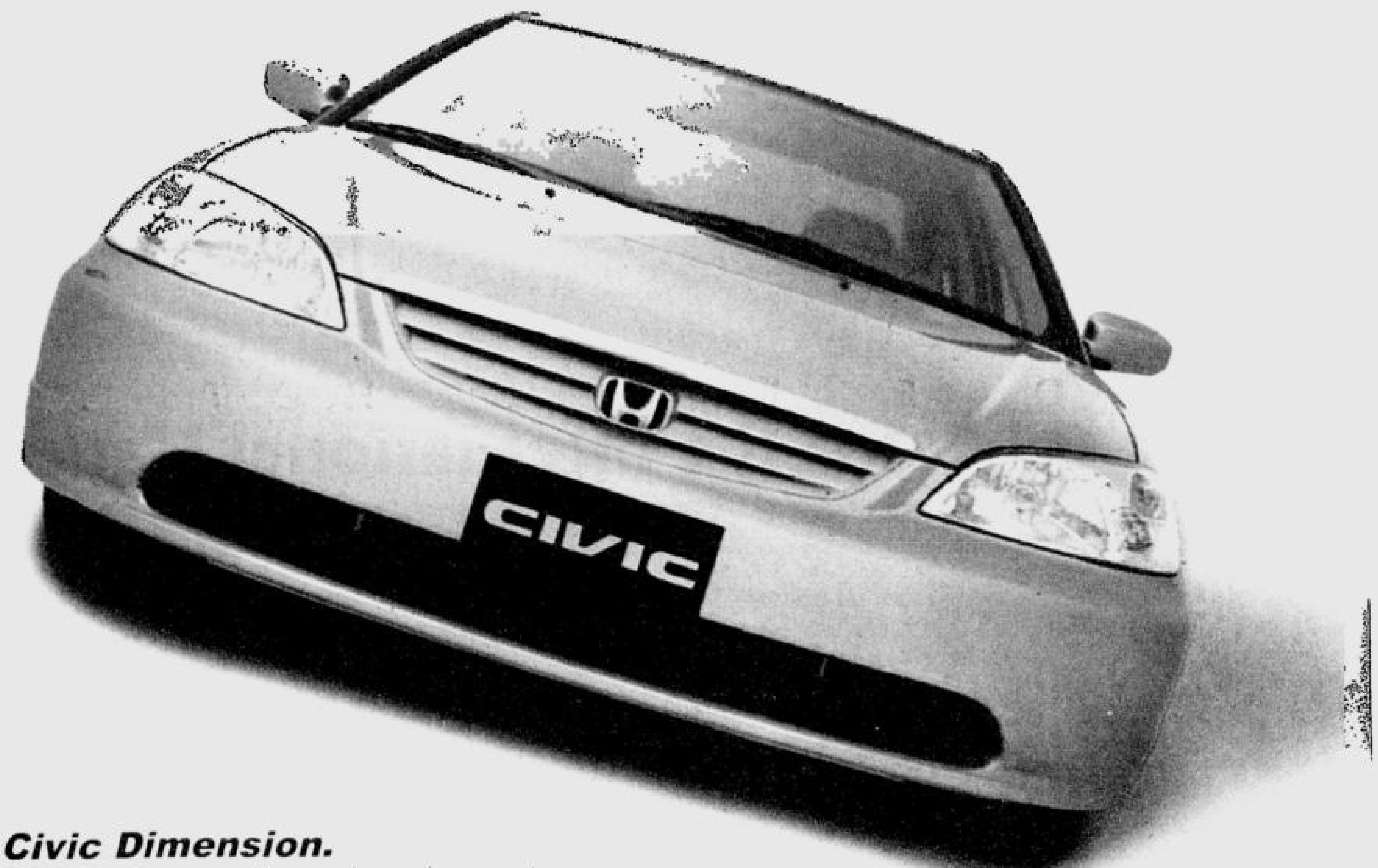

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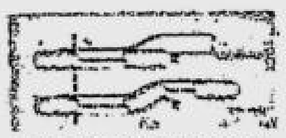

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COMPETING FOR THE BEST PEOPLE

Who's winning the war for talent?

TODAY's "war for talent" is still real, but our research indicates that it's being fought mainly in hot spots and on selective fronts. Hence, we risk overreacting at the expense of building a solid defense.

- Despite bidding wars in a number of industry and professional sectors, our research indicates that compensation is neither the main cause, nor the cure, for losing key people.
- The principal reasons for unwanted turnover that emerged during our surveys and interviews in 2000 are:

1. Limited opportunity inside a company.
2. Personal growth opportunities in dotcoms and other new companies.
3. Uncertain work environment.
4. Poor relationships with managers.

Two recent studies by The Conference Board and Accenture reveal what companies are doing to address these new challenges. They are:

- The Latest Strategic Weapon: Combining Recruiting and Retention
- Retention Strategies That Go Beyond Dollars

The Latest Strategic Weapon: Combining Recruiting and Retention

The Conference Board's ongoing research indicates that change is afoot in terms of attracting and retaining the best talent, but retention is still getting short shrift.

- Many companies are investing in new recruiting strategies to address the needs of the day, and they are doing so with some success.
- There are some exciting retention strategies emerging; however, few companies are embarking on these innovative paths.
- Even so, we believe that the emergence of retention strategies is one of the most promising new developments for keeping the talent war at manageable levels.

Where turnover tends to cause the most pain. Our surveys show that the highest turnover occurs where it is most expected these days—in technical areas:

- But this includes scientists, engineers, and other highly skilled professionals—not just computer techies.
- Close behind are high potentials and top performers.

Conclusion? The employees that your companies want most to keep have plenty of opportunities, and there is more and more effort being made to target and recruit your best workers away from you.

A fact not as widely acknowledged is that, unlike in previous eras, top executives and line managers are among the least likely to leave a company. The following are categories experiencing turnover, from most to least:

- IT/computer staff
- technical experts
- high potentials and top performers
- frontline workers
- women and minorities
- top executives
- line managers

What are most companies doing?

Despite the pressure imposed by dramatic increases in turnover—especially among the most valued employees—most companies appear to be stuck in a time warp:

- 81 percent report broad-based strategies to deal with turnover using traditional HR levers, like salary and benefits.
- Two-thirds say they are still in reactive mode.
- Only 16 percent have programs to make managers accountable for turnover.

Recruiting and retention must work to gether. Our research indicates that in today's crusade for capabilities, the battles waged must address a wide range of needs in both recruiting and retention in tandem:

Recruiting—Today's faster work flow and processes require companies to place more emphasis on alignment, culture fit, brand, speed and readiness—not just price.

More e-cruising—A wide array of Internet software and communications options are aiding recruiting. Using the company's own site, as well as major e-recruiting sites, is paying off, HR leaders say.

Better on-boarding—Companies are learning to shorten their cycle time in decision-making, so they don't lose talent to faster bidders, and they are also getting people immersed in their jobs more quickly.

Focusing on new talent pools—is they look hard at the demographics, many companies see that older workers as well as other disenfranchised workers represent a depth of talent, commitment and experience that's unparalleled. They're trying to reverse more than a decade of programs designed to move those over age 50 out the door.

- For entry-level jobs, many companies have begun to recruit from the ranks of those once considered unemployable, in part by participating in welfare-to-work incentive programs.
- Some companies have started training non-technical, liberal arts graduates for some of the high-tech positions that are going unfilled.

Emerging Retention Strategies. Some of today's winning retention strategies focus on the kinds of "carrots" that used to be offered only to members of the executive ranks. Plus, there are a slew of more qualitative draws that seem to act the best results. For example:

- Engaging senior executives to lead corporate-wide programs to build loyalty, reduce turnover, and become the employer-of-choice.
- Performance-based compensation giving key talent more of an upside and a more explicit stake in the success of the business.
- More ownership through stock, options, or other equity participation programs.
- Accommodation to individual needs through flexible work assignments, alternate career paths, and a greater array of work life choices.
- Corporate branding and corporate citizenship efforts clarifying the links among employee values, the corporation's business mission, and its contributions to society.

There's More—"Re-employing" Talent. Recruiting and retention strategies, by themselves, don't get the job done. Ultimately, a company succeeds by employing the right people in the right jobs at the right time. Our research indicates that good employment practices lead naturally to ongoing, rapid "re-employment" of valuable human resources within a company, wherever and whenever they're needed.

By definition, an effective, ongoing re-employment effort requires management's ability to see beyond traditional functional boundaries and to come up with creative ways of deploying people whenever and wherever needed. Some of the re-employment programs that caught our eyes were:

- Rapid redeployment of employees coming off of assignments, reducing downtime between projects.
- Automation and redesign of work forecasting, skills databases, and availability tracking.
- Comprehensive, internal job posting, and support for career development assignments.
- "Self-service" tools that enable employees to identify opportunities and keep information about their availability and skills current.

What keeps employees around?
Retention Strategies That Go Beyond Dollars

Today, executives around the world consider people to be a more critical asset than ever before.

- One-third of 483 executives around the world—half of those in the US—said that finding good people is one of their top three challenges.
- 70 percent also said that retaining the best talent is one of their biggest "people issues" in the new economy.

But there seems to be a disconnect:

- Although growth and development were named key retention issues, only one-fourth of the companies reported having made any changes in these areas.
- Of those who had made significant changes, those new approaches were focused mostly on compensation.
- According to Saratoga Institute, a human resources consulting firm, attrition rates in the United States have climbed by nearly 20 percent in the past five years, to an average of 16.5 percent, and in Europe by 10 percent in just the last year alone, to an average of 14 percent.
- 70 percent of the executives surveyed said that when talented employees leave, they generally join a direct competitor.

With job-hopping continuing to grow unabated all over the world, and with bidding wars occurring routinely in the hottest job markets, what's the answer?

Accenture research indicates that retention leaders are taking a different tack from just throwing money at the problem. Instead, they're:

- Providing a wide range of growth and development opportunities for all levels of employees.
- Learning what employees really want most by communicating with them, and by receiving their continual feedback.
- Adopting measurement and reward systems that clearly articulate what's expected from them, and reward them accordingly.

Focus on growth and dev't

Retention leaders give employees:

- A chance to be involved in developing the company's strategy. Example: Swedish financial services leader Skandia charges diverse employee teams with creating a vision of the company's future.
- Mobility in and around the company. Examples: Nissan Motor Corp., Cisco, Microsoft, Toyota Motor Credit Corp., who rotate jobs regularly.
- Tools and training, including leading-edge technologies like live and software-enabled simulations. Examples: BellSouth and Siemens, respectively, whose bottom lines improved.

...And clarify what's expected of them

Retention winners are not only doing a better job of measuring and rewarding employee performance, they're also increasing accountability. For example, a major US global energy company is creating an automated "causal map" that:

- Pinpoints the relationship between business strategy and individual employee behavior.
- Feeds results to each one privately, via a personal Web portal.

Specific employees are shown how their behavior affects the whole and are then held responsible for their respective parts. Our research indicates that this level of specificity is crucial. *(This article was lifted from The CEO Challenge: Top Marketplace and Management Issues 2000, A CEO survey by Accenture and The Conference Board.)*

Pinoy Drink for the International Market

Malice and Kalibog

An intimate get-together was recently hosted by El Tomador, Inc. at the Oakroom of the very plush Oakwood Premier, Ayala Center to introduce Malice Sparkling Alcopop and Kalibog to hotels and restaurant owners.

Made from lambanog, Malice is a fruity women's drink that packs a pretty punch but without the bitter aftertaste. According to industry reports, Malice has virtually turned the alcohol industry on its head, as it is currently outselling established brands in the market. Malice is currently listed as one of the top five market threats to San Miguel.

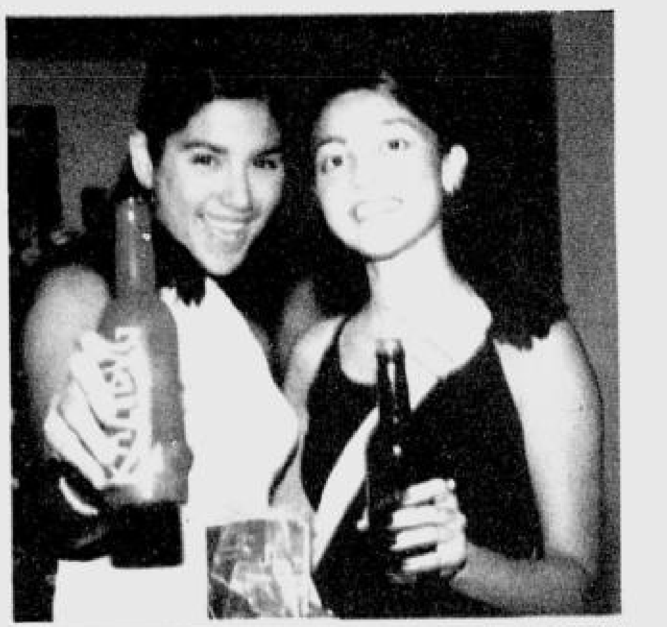
No longer touted as a poor man's drink, Malice has tickled the most discriminating taste buds in most upscale bars in the metropolis. Quezon City has been declared Malice country, with over 75 bars and restaurants serving Malice. Recently, a big export deal was clinched. After barely a year of its creation, El Tomador, Inc. is now shipping Malice to the United States. Negotiations are also being done to export Malice to China and Japan.

What Tequila is to Mexico, Vodka is to Russia and Sake is to Japan, Lambuhog is to the Philippines. Having this in mind, Malice and Kalibog now become exotic, unique, can-only-be-found-in-the-Philippines specialty signature drinks. This is a big come-on to foreigners which is the primary target market of hotels. Because of this, Malice and Kalibog become ideal products to push to foreigners as great gifts and mini-bar items. Miren Padilla, President and CEO of El Tomador, addressed hotel representatives "We would like to ask for your support in making Malice and Kalibog known to the world because our product is definitely world-class. In fact Malice has passed even the strict BFAD rules of the United States. There is a big chance and we need the hotels to help us make Malice and Kalibog known to foreigners."

To restaurant owners, this is what Padilla had to say, "Malice and Kalibog are the first alcoholic drinks to go well with food."

Attended by representatives from establishments like Hotel Inter-Continental Manila, Manila Midtown Hotel, The Manila Hotel, Millenium Plaza Hotel, Grilla Bar and Restaurant, Algo Inn, Congo Grille, Fridays Boracay, Bilyar Bar and Cafe and others, the tropical-inspired party enjoyed the music of Los Caballeros. Meanwhile, El Tomador showered the lucky guests with exciting raffle prizes including jewelry sets, trips for two to Boracay, El Nido, Hong Kong and Singapore.

For more information about Malice and Kalibog, please contact El Tomador, Inc. at 725-2149 or 723-1382.



EBAY MOVES FIRST

No more freebies as Internet sites start charging

SAN JOSE, California—People across the country who sell things on eBay are furious with the auction site because of its recent move to charge subscription fees for a popular piece of software that makes it easier to list items.

In irate notes on message boards and e-mails to the company, sellers accuse eBay of getting greedy and belying its warm and fuzzy community-focused image. Some are threatening a class action suit because older versions of the software, which cost as much as $200, stopped working.

Everyone else who uses the Internet should take note.

An increasing number of companies, including giant Microsoft Corp., are expected to embrace subscription models and move away from selling software for a one-time fee. The companies say they simply can't afford to keep giving away free upgrades.

"The trend is undeniable—it's just a question of how long it's going to take," said Rob Enderle, a research fellow with Giga Information Group. "The existing model isn't working. You can certainly try to live in the past, but whether you're a Microsoft or an eBay, you're probably going to get bypassed."

Microsoft has introduced subscription-based options for business software, including the new Office XP, and called the move a "first step toward offering software as a service"—meaning subscription plans for all users. Oracle Corp. gives away sales force management software for now, but has indicated it eventually will charge a subscription.

The eBay software was known as Auction Assistant, and now is called Seller's Assistant. Because it helps eBay users post attractive presentations of their products and manage the transactions, it is popular among people who list several items at once.

It was created by Pennsylvania-based Blackthorne Software, which eBay acquired in 1999.

Users say they bought Auction Assistant and its supercharged version, Auction Assistant Pro, for $50 to $200 over the years with the understanding that Blackthorne would upgrade the software for free when improvements were available, or when needed because of technical changes in the massive eBay site.

In February, Blackthorne informed users Auction Assistant was being upgraded, taking on the new Seller's Assistant name and switching to a subscription model—$4.99 a month for the basic version, $15.99 for Pro. Existing Auction Assistant users were told they could get a year's subscription to the new software for free.

On April 1, Blackthorne's president, John Slocum, wrote on the company's online discussion board that almost two-thirds of Auction Assistant users had switched to Seller's Assistant. He added that, after April 30, Blackthorne "cannot assure users that Auction Assistant will continue to be fully functional or compatible with the eBay site."

Despite the warning, many users were caught off guard when their Auction Assistant programs stopped working last week. They accused eBay of intentionally making Auction Assistant useless to force them to buy the new software.

"Why weren't we just grandfathered in, since we already owned the same program?" said Cindy Izon of Tulsa, Oklahoma, who sells decorative dolls on eBay. "It makes me so mad."

Dan Rushing of Albuquerque, New Mexico, lamented what he called eBay's "extreme arrogance."

Collectibles seller Carol Hudson of Chattanooga, Tennessee, wrote in an e-mail interview: "Most of us have been angry with them for two or three years because of their 'do it our way or get lost' attitude. But this time, they have really gone too far and shown their true colors."

eBay spokesman Kevin Pursglove said nothing was done intentionally to disable older versions of Auction Assistant. He said what occurred is most likely "the natural obsolescence that's going to be developing any time a piece of software ages."

He also said the subscription model is necessary to finance continued improvements to the Blackthorne software, and disputed suggestions the company was taking unfair advantage of its dominating position in the online auction business.

"I realize that's a fairly common remark when any customer has a certain level of frustration, but it doesn't do the business any good to 'bleed people dry'," Pursglove said. "We want users to continually come to eBay, to continually use the Blackthorne programs to sell on eBay."

Arthur Newman, head of Internet research at ABN Amro Inc., supported eBay's stance and said it is part of the new economics of the Web.

"I think the Internet over the last few years has spawned a whole generation of people who expect to get everything for free and forget you have to pay for services," he said. "If people can't make money providing them, they're going to stop providing them. There's a limit to goodwill. eBay is hardly alone in starting to charge for things." *AP*

Wall Street ads . . .

(From page C5)

important thing, he preaches to the audience, is appropriate portfolio diversification.

A man in the aging-Baby-Boomer audience asks, "What do I do right now?" The prompt voice-over reply urges him to sign up for a complimentary Schwab workshop on navigating today's market.

Other finance houses, including Merrill Lynch and Prudential Securities, have also positioned themselves in more conservative print, television or Internet ads as trusted guides to help investors weather the storm.

"The thing with financial advertising is that it has to change with the economy. It has to shift with the changing wind," said Jonathan Jackson, advertising analyst at eMarketer, a New York-based firm which monitors traditional and Web advertising.

"Schwab comes to mind, but across the board, as I watch CNBC, it is more subdued advertising," he said. "Now they are putting a human face on it. A lot of the earlier ads were splashy, with high energy music and the message was jump on the bandwagon while you can."

'Be bullish'

Another stark example of change is Merrill Lynch, which this month drew the curtain on the "Be Bullish" tagline of its global advertisement campaign, a gung-ho theme whose ill-timed January 2000 launch came just ahead of the market slump.

"Ask Merrill" is the new slogan that now appears in ads next to the signature bull wagging its tail, the company's corporate logo.

Recent full-page Merrill ads in major newspapers introducing the latest campaign, invite clients to tap into what it calls its vast network of financial knowledge.

That's "nearly 70,000 insightful minds on six continents," notes the ad titled: "Welcome to the financial world, circa 2001." They include economists, strategists, portfolio managers, currency specialists and debt and equity traders.

Merrill, which coined the "Bullish on America" slogan in the early 1970s, says "Be Bullish" was never meant to be a market call. The new theme, to serve as a platform for all of its businesses worldwide, translates better to overseas clients who may not understand the concept of "bullishness," said Charles Mangano, Merrill's senior director of brand management.

"One thing you need to do to be an effective marketer is to stay close to the market because great brands in challenging times can grow," he said in a recent telephone interview.

"The bull is still our logo," Mangano said. "What we are doing here is focusing on, particularly during times like this in volatile markets, the intelligence that we bring to bear and the resources we have to offer around the world."

The reworded campaign—which will cost tens of millions of dollars—was launched in major print publications and outdoor billboards in the United States and some European countries.

Unbiased research

At a time when many question the credibility of "sell-side" analysts, who are dismissed by some as little more than cheerleaders for the stocks they cover, Prudential Securities is tackling this issue head on as it depicts itself as a separate breed from the Wall Street pack.

Its latest advertisements feature recently hired senior banking analyst Michael Mayo, who was fired by CS First Boston last year and has a reputation for forthright opinions. Mayo tells viewers his "sell" rating means a sell and his "buy" rating means exactly that.

"Promoting this concept of unfettered research comes as a result of Prudential's scaling back its investment banking business," said Bob DeFillippo, chief public relations officer. *Reuters*

Chicago's corporate HQ raiders eye other firms

CHICAGO—Today, Boeing. Tomorrow, the world headquarters for a slew of other mobile Fortune 500 companies? Chicago officials hope so.

Encouraged by Boeing Co.'s pending corporate move from Seattle, local officials are targeting 20 other big companies to recruit—an effort energized by the aerospace giant's May 10 relocation announcement.

Suddenly, a city that was feeling defensive after the loss of several headquarters and the slump of its financial markets is on the offensive, confident that the Chicago business blues have given way to a more upbeat tune.

"The end of the beginning is Boeing," says economic development leader Paul O'Connor. "Now it's show time."

The officials won't say which companies are on their radar screen, other than that they are located in smaller cities and could potentially be lured by Chicago's central location, unparalleled air connections and deeper job pool.

Some might be Boeing suppliers that would follow the world's largest exporter here, hints O'Connor, executive director of World Business Chicago, a nonprofit economic development group funded by the city and private businesses.

International corporations might be targeted next, he says.

The recruiting campaign began taking shape last fall, months before Boeing disclosed it would relocate 500 top corporate staff members. It gained huge momentum from the $51 billion-a-year company's ultimate choice of Chicago in a three-city sweepstakes.

Boeing will become the biggest of the Chicago area's 35 Fortune 500 companies when its leadership settles into a downtown office tower in September. But its presence already is being felt.

"It's an enormous boost," says O'Connor. "There had been a built going on for a number of years, that (Mayor) Rich Daley had restored Chicago to its full vigor, that it was a 'Super Bowl team' again. What Boeing did was that final catalytic liftoff."

Chicago's status as a business capital eroded gradually over the years before the recent perceived resurgence.

Mergers and other economic reasons stripped it of numerous corporate headquarters: Ameritech, Amoco, Continental Bank, Illinois Central, Inland Steel, Marshall Field's, Morton International and, most recently, Montgomery Ward.

The world's two biggest futures markets, the Chicago Board of Trade and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, were surpassed in 1999 by Frankfurt's Eurex. The region's high-tech industry lagged.

This area's diversified economy, however, helped it withstand the US slowdown better than many other cities.

Seeing an opportunity, local leaders decided to get aggressive when they read last fall that many Fortune 500 corporations were having difficulty filling their top slots. Robert Ady, co-founder of World Business Chicago, began compiling names of companies in the midst of change that might be candidates to be lured to Chicago. *AP*

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BUSINESS*Monday*

NATURALIZATION PROCESS

Bill to ease way for Chinese, Indians to be Pinoys

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SUGARLAND founder Dante Y. Go had such a nightmarish experience when he applied for Filipino citizenship a few decades ago that he wished his fellow island-born aliens would not undergo the same tortuous route.

Go's wish is about to come true as the Department of Justice recently endorsed moves to provide a special administrative process for the naturalization of certain aliens.

Go, president of the Chinese Filipino Business Club Inc., said that the DOJ endorsement would boost the chances of enacting House Bill No. 12228 which shifts the acquisition of Filipino citizenship from judicial to administrative.

"This would be a welcome relief to the 50,000 Chinese and Indians who were born and raised here," said Go.

Previously, Go said aliens, upon reaching 18 years of age, had to spend between P500,000 and P1 million in official fees, attend numerous court hearings (where applicants are tested on their knowledge of Philippine history and culture), and wait for at least three years before they can have Filipino citizenship.

With the proposed administrative process, Go said the costs have been substantially trimmed down (one-time filing fee of P100,000) and the process vastly simplified.

"You just have to show proof that you are of legal age (18 years old), with good moral standing, reasonable income, graduated from a school recognized by the DECS (Department of Education and Sports), and no criminal record."

Go said this would be a tremendous boost to 50,000 Chinese and Indians in the country who have been hankering to be recognized as Filipino citizens.

"They don't consider the Philippines as a second home. They want to live and work here," Go said.

Also, Go said the speedier naturalization process would help island-born aliens stop the harassment from authorities who badger them simply because they are foreigners.

He said aliens who went to school here could now practice their profession here instead of going to countries with more liberal rules on alien hiring.

GO

For the government, Go said the administrative process would immediately raise P5 billion in new revenues from the filing fees.

Although the bill was approved in the House of Representatives, it was not able to make it to the Senate because of last year's historic impeachment trial which sidetracked all major policy reforms in the legislature.

Go said he was confident the new Congress would enact the bill after President Macapagal-Arroyo gave her assurance that she would support the bill if the DOJ backed it up.

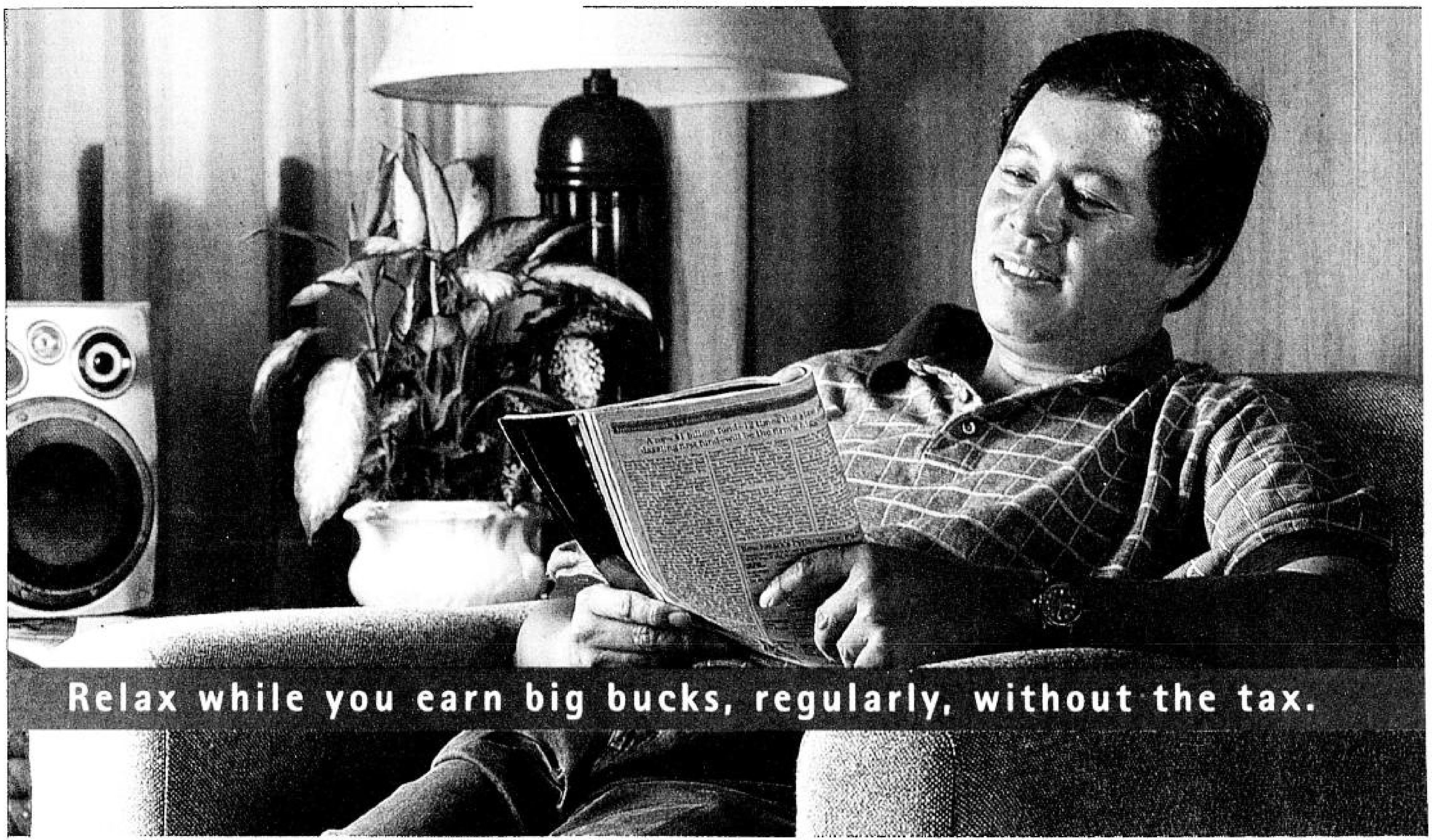
In a letter to the Senate, the DOJ said: "It is high time for the law to be re-examined because it is perceived to be no longer responsive to the increasing demands of the ever-changing international migration and domestic policies."

The existing law on naturalization is based on Commonwealth Act No. 473 or Revised Naturalization law enacted in June 1939.

The DOJ noted that the overly strict jurisprudence surrounding the antiquated naturalization laws allows only the rich with their influential backers to be able to acquire Philippine citizenship through lengthy, humiliating and corrupt judicial process.

He noted that President Macapagal was the first post-war Philippine president to set foot in Binondo, which was only a 15-minute ride away from Malacañang.

"Her visit was significant to the Chinese-Filipino community because we are now acknowledged as part of the country," Go said. "We have vowed to work doubly hard to help the economy to recover."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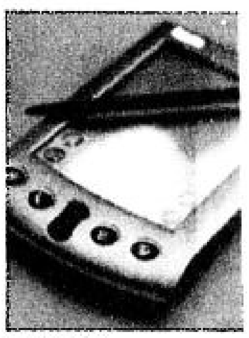

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Let's affirm the need to protect heritage and green spaces

SPACED OUT

Augusto F. Villalon

ENVIRONMENTALISTS, heritage conservationists, cultural agencies and other concerned individuals have combined their efforts to organize the Picnic in the Park tomorrow morning at the Arroceros Forest Park, Manila to demonstrate that the protection of the environment is an urgent concern that many citizens share. The urgency will be demonstrated by at least 10,000 signatures to a letter that reads as follows:

"As we gather on June 5 to celebrate World Environment Day 2001 at the Arroceros Forest Park together with Honorable Mayor Lito Atienza, we affirm the need to pro-

LET'S/ p. D2

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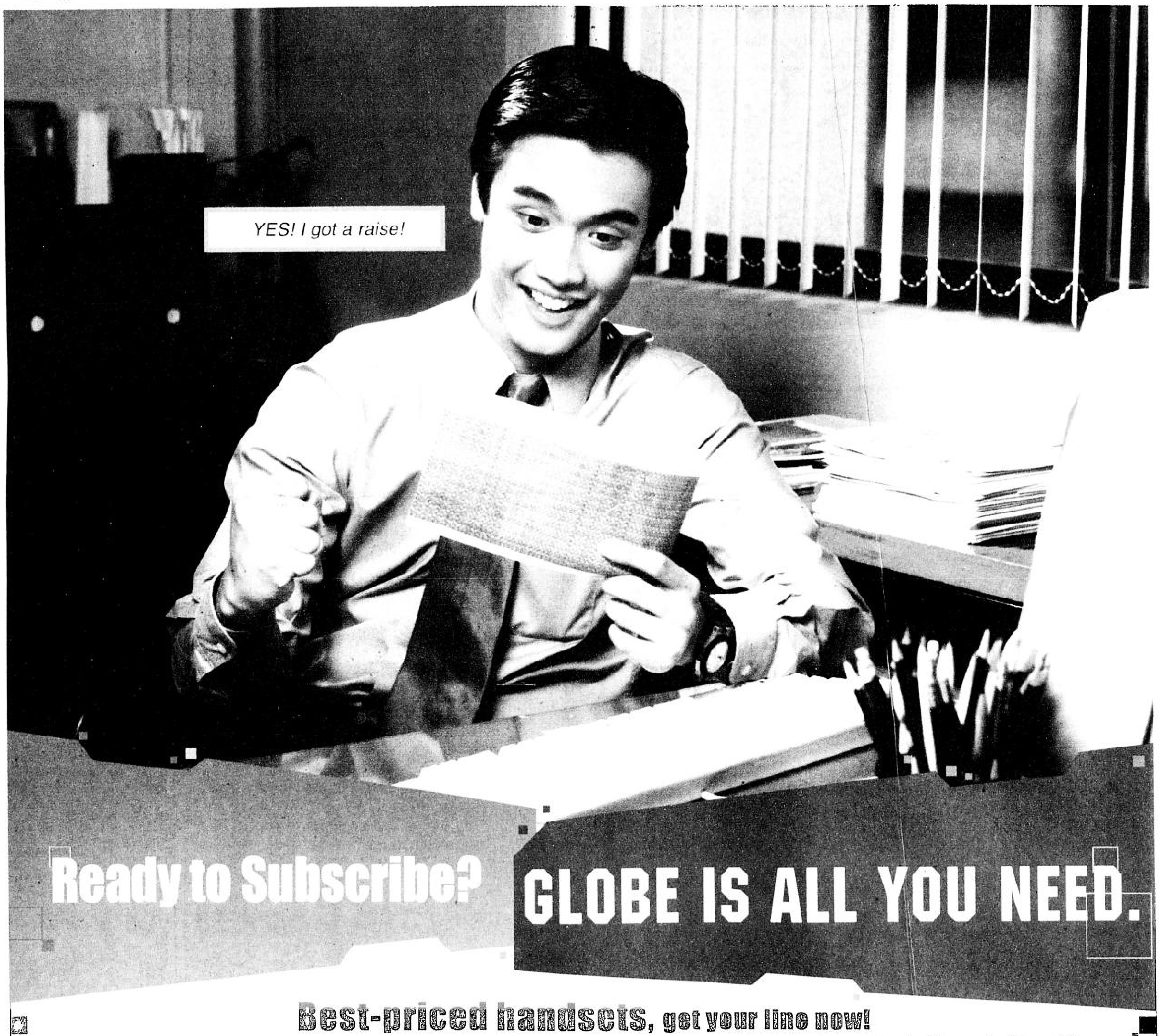

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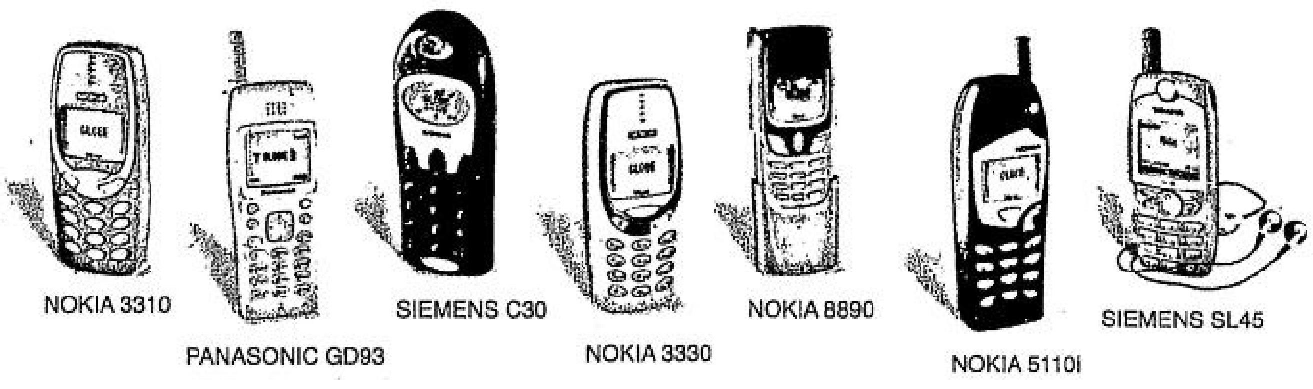

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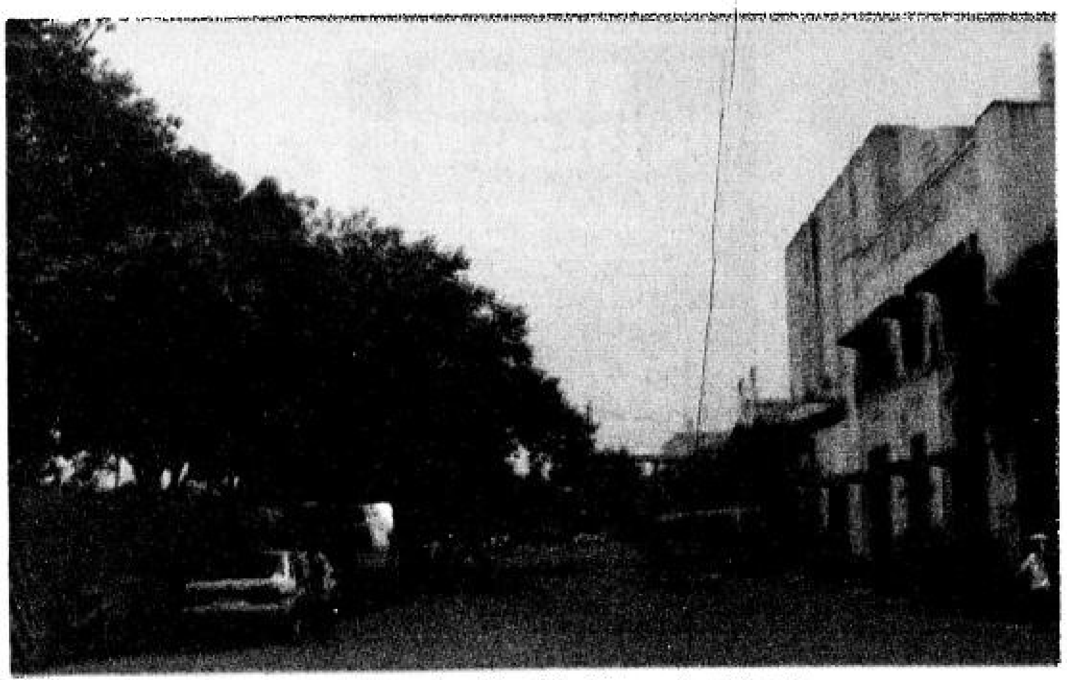


THE ARROCEROS Forest Park facing the side of the Metropolitan Theater

Let's affirm the need to protect heritage and green spaces

(From page D1)

tect all of the green spaces that are the environmental lungs of the City of Manila.

"We are aware that many of the city's green spaces are now severely endangered, and that their loss causes more imbalance to the delicate environmental conditions that exist in our polluted city.

"We have come to the Arroceros Forest Park today to demonstrate our commitment to saving the green spaces in Manila.

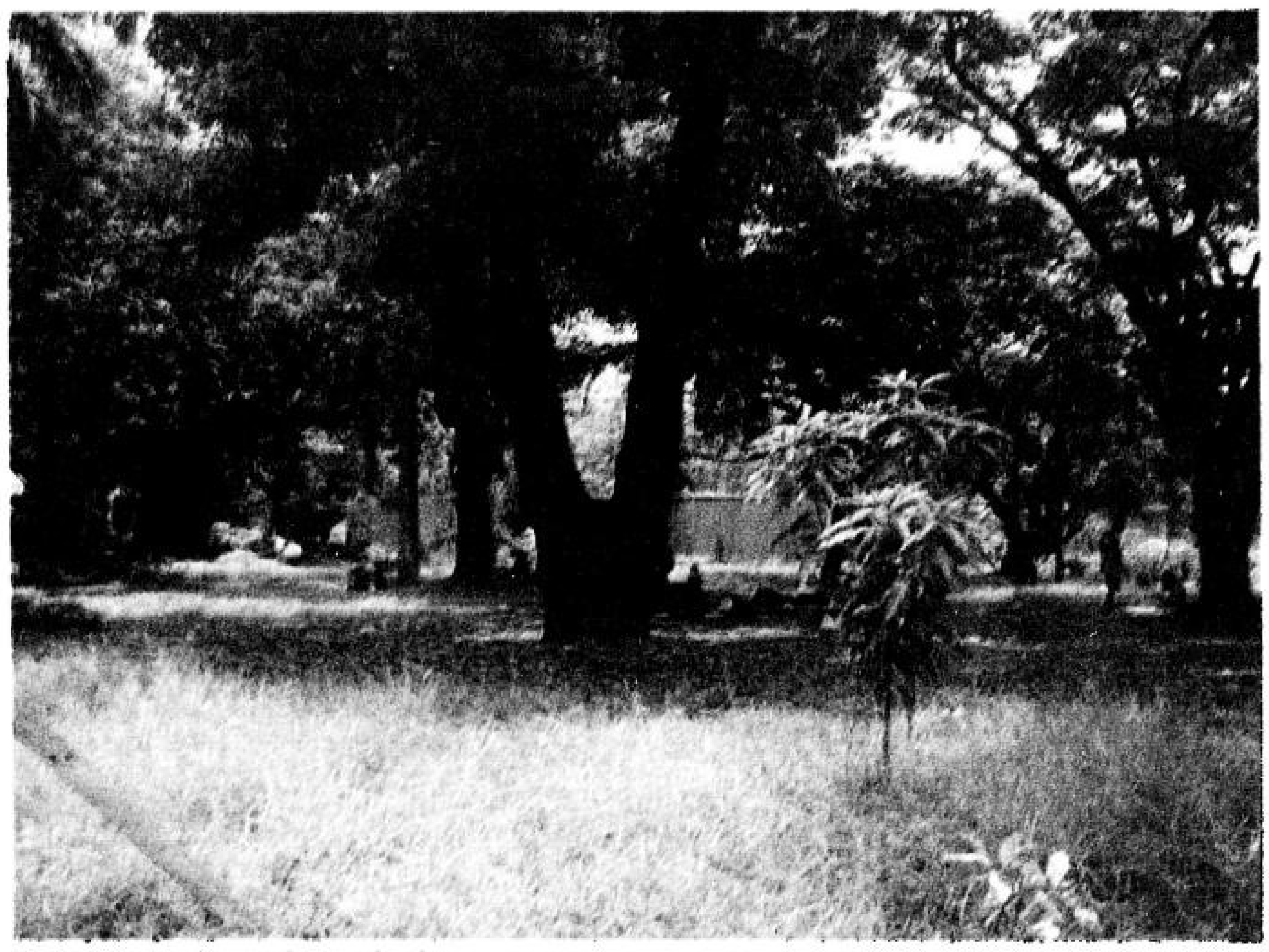
"We invoke artistic expression and rekindle our 'Memories of Mehan Garden.' In the spirit of concern for improving the quality of life in Manila, we ask Mayor Atienza to remove all recent interventions to Mehan Garden and to return it to the green space that it once was.

"We invite the Mayor to participate in our efforts to protect and restore the urban green belt beginning with the Arroceros Forest Park, Mehan Gardens, Plaza Lawton and the Puerta del Parian Gardens as the setting for two of the most significant examples of Manila's rich cultural heritage in need for restoration and adaptive reuse, the Manila Post Office and Metropolitan Theater.

"While restoration of the Mehan Garden area improves our polluted environmental conditions, restoration and adaptive reuse of the Manila Post Office and the Metropolitan Theater pave the way to recapturing Manila's lost title of 'Premier City of the Philippines.' Furthermore, such action establishes the concern of Manila residents for the protection of the environment and cultural heritage of their city.

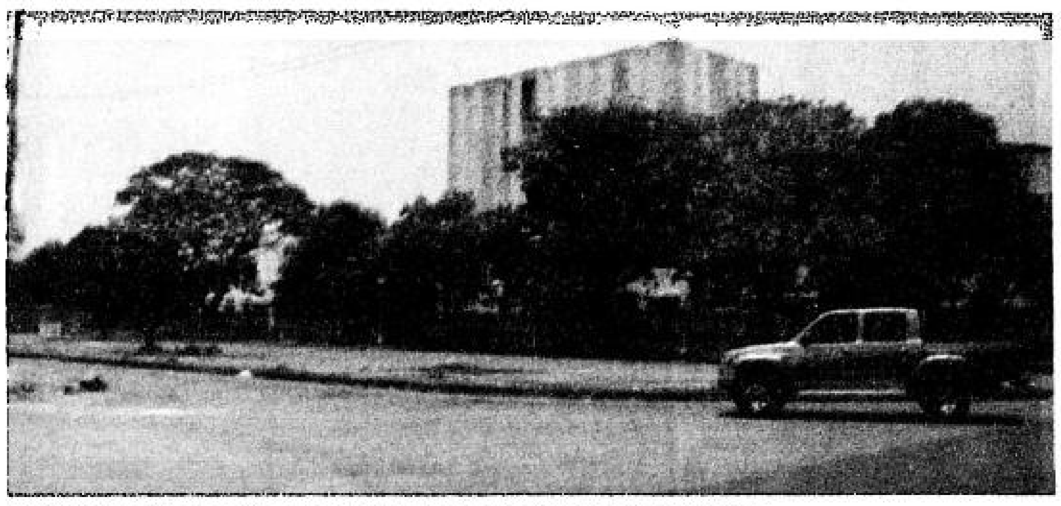
"Our signatures below manifest our pledge to participate in the effort to restore the green belt surrounding the Manila Post Office and Metropolitan Theater in Manila."

TASTELESS billboard announces tasteless project.

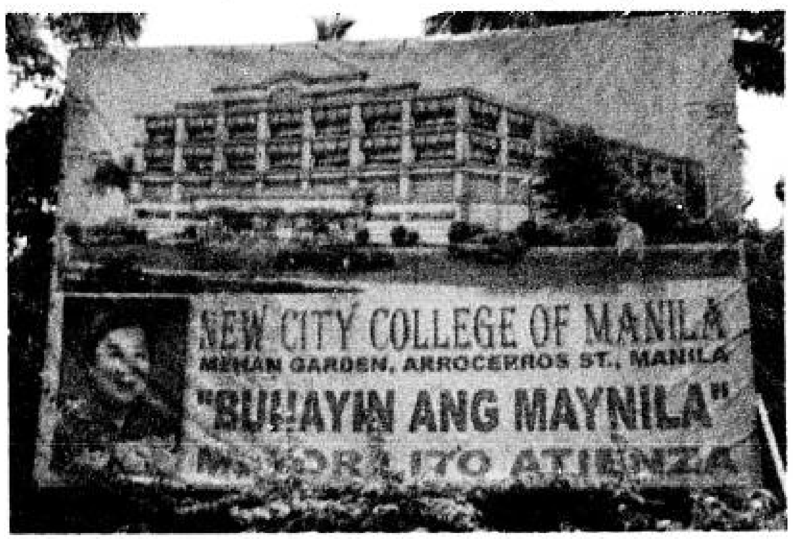


MEHAN Garden: An oasis in urban jungle

> Without adequate heritage legislation, we will continue to lose important landmarks like the Jai Alai and Mehan Garden. Without any legal protection, their survival is at the whim of government authorities



BACKLOT of Metropolitan Theater in dire need of greenery and upkeep


NEW CITY COLLEGE OF MANILA
MEHAN GARDEN, ARROCERROS ST., MANILA
"BUHAYIN ANG MAYNILA"
MAYOR LITO ATIENZA

BILLBOARD betrays City Hall's "edifice complex." What will happen to the City College building in Escolta?

Green and stress

The green belt surrounds the Mehan Garden area includes the contiguous areas of the Arroceros Forest Park, what is left of Plaza Lawton and the Puerta Parian Gardens beside the Intramuros walls.

Think what that green belt could do to our stressed urban lives.

Mehan Garden is the site of the former Parian, the ghetto where the Spanish quartered the Chinese tradesmen to keep them out of Intramuros but under strict control. Underneath Mehan Garden lies an unexcavated archeological treasure, probably the most extensive in Manila. Concreting over Mehan Garden ends any hope of future excavation.

Without adequate heritage legislation, we will continue to lose landmarks like the Jai Alai and Mehan Garden. Without any legal protection, their survival is at the whim of government authorities. To be able to protect our heritage, the Heritage Conservation Society is spearheading the filing of the Landmarks Bill to protect the built heritage and cultural landscapes of our country.

The Mehan Garden and Arroceros Forest Park are certainly Manila cultural landscapes that must continue, not because they make Manila pretty but because they are essential to the health of the city residents.

The Picnic in the Park is all about keeping the vanishing green areas in Manila that act as our city's lungs that filter the polluted air that we breathe. It is also about showing Manileños that in places of green, like the Arroceros Forest Park located in the center of Manila, the air is clean and the surroundings are peaceful, unlike what we are often assaulted with in Manila.

We will all breathe much better when our city is green. But to ensure better breathing, join the Picnic in the Park so that our green spaces are saved. We owe it to ourselves and to our children.

E-mail the author at afv@pacific.net.ph

Suppose you could ask God the most puzzling questions about existence -- love, faith, life and death, good and evil. Suppose God provided clear, derstandable answers. It happened to Neale Donald Walsch. It coulu n to you.

and INQUIRER
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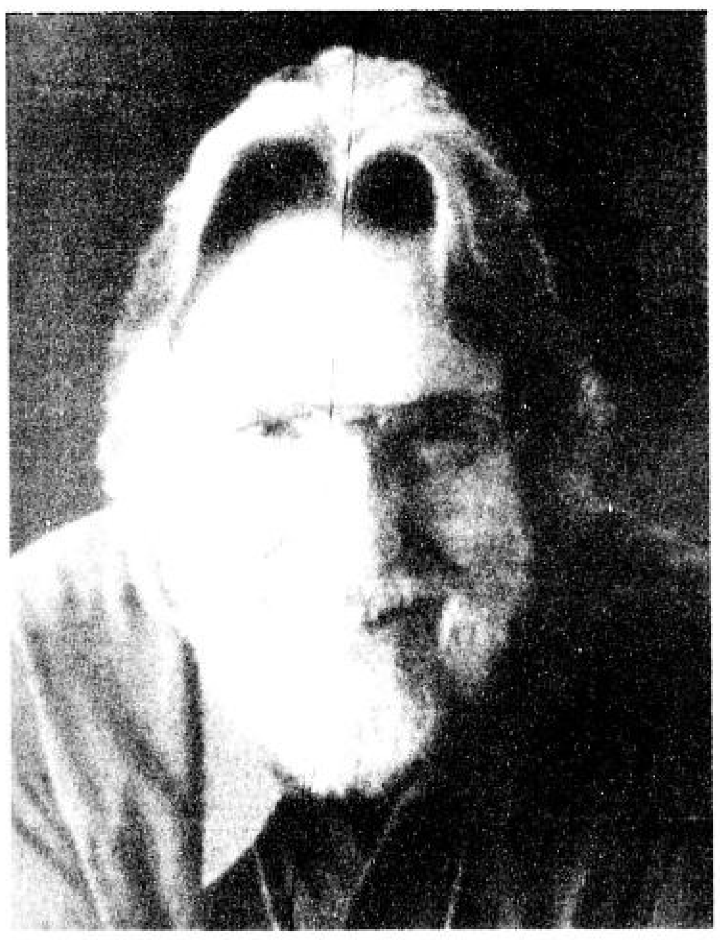
NEALE DONALD WALSCH



Author of the world bestsellers "Conversations With God 1, 2, 3".
His books have been translated to 24 languages and have touched the hearts of millions worldwide.

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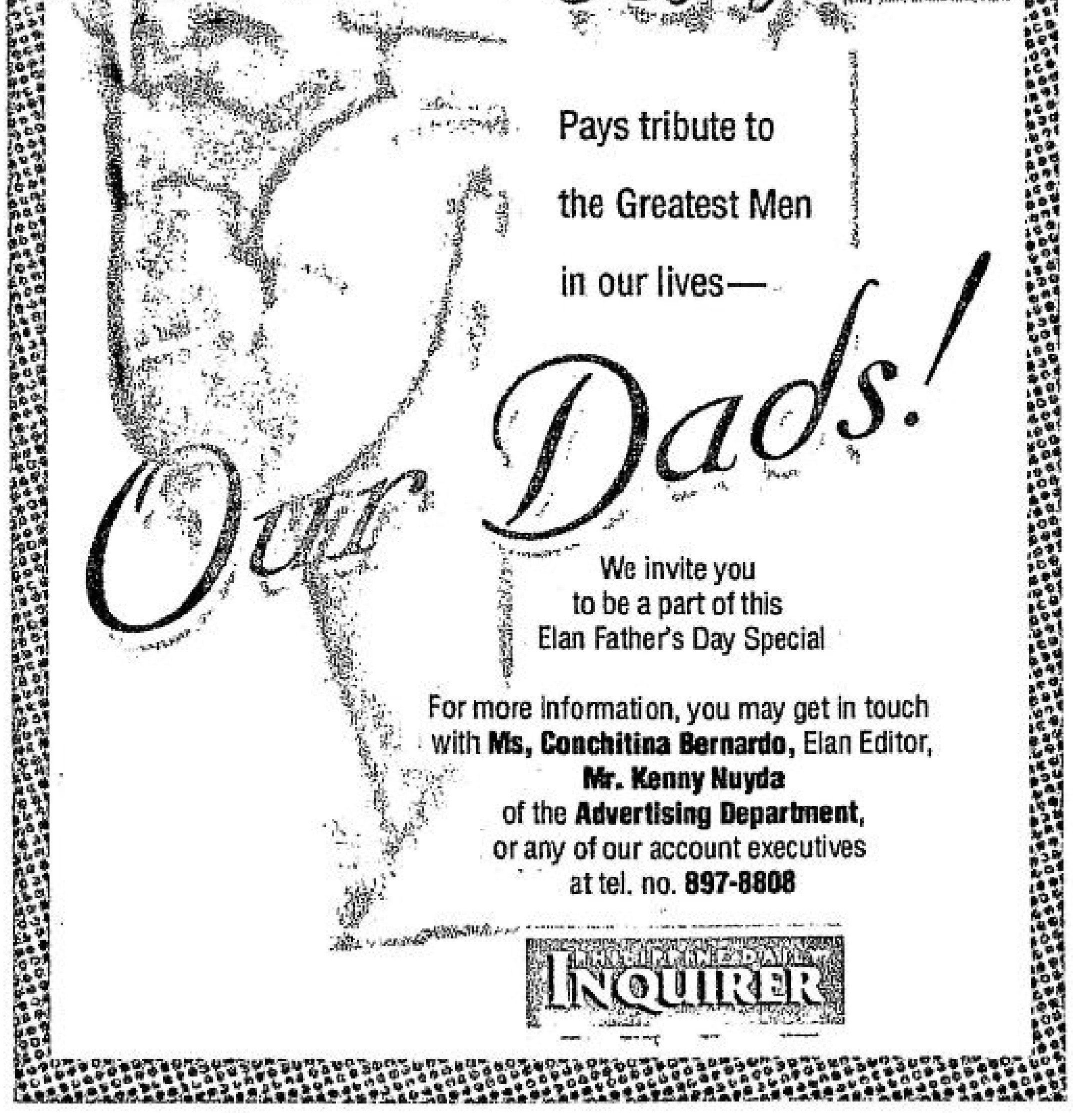

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all about élan

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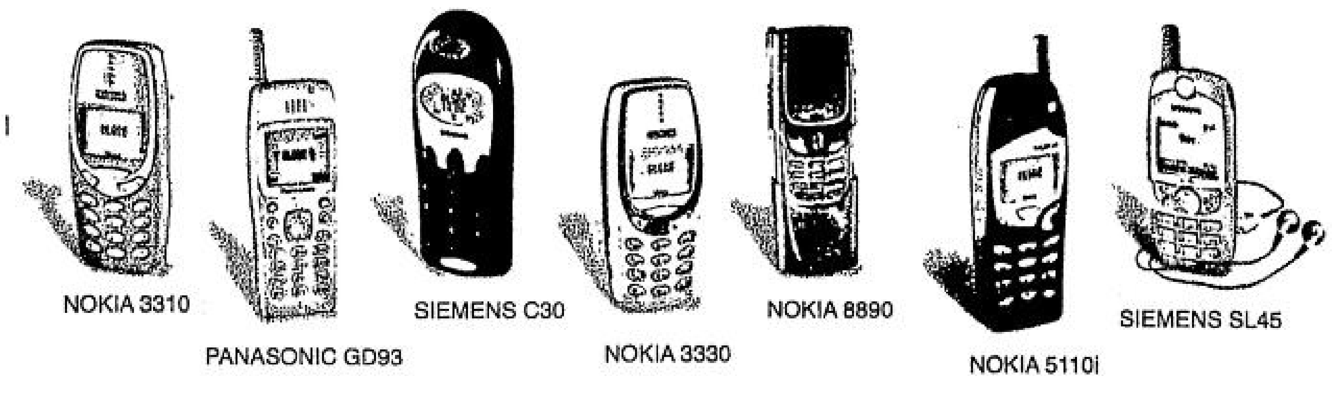

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Balic-Balic parish marks Trinity Sunday with grand exhibit and dance

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

THE MOST Holy Trinity Parish in Balic-Balic, Sampaloc is celebrating Trinity Sunday on June 10 by holding a grand exhibit of icons depicting the many faces of the Holy Trinity and a cultural dance procession called "Santatyaw" on June 9.

The theme of this year's fiesta is "Santatlong Magkakaiba, Santatlong Nagkakaisa." The parish, with its 56 barangays and 20 (still growing) basic ecclesial communities, is not just celebrating a fiesta. The people are actually embracing their oneness, which is the "communio" of the communities and the whole "Misterio ng Banal na Santatlo."

The people will come together on June 10, 5 p.m., to hear the Mass to be officiated by Cardinal Sin with Fr. Erik Adoviso concelebrating.

It has been said that the mystery of the Trinity—God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit—should be the deepest source of inspiration as it illuminates the brightest meaning of life. In last year's Jubilee celebration, Pope John Paul II called us to make "one unceasing hymn of praise" to the Trinity in whom, according to St. Augustine, the fullness of our happiness dwells.

Religious concert

A MUSICAL concert called "Santatlong Papuri" will be held on June 9 with Ariel Rivera, Pinky Marquez, Robert Seña, Raymond Lauchengco and Isay Alvarez as performers.

Apparition in Cleveland

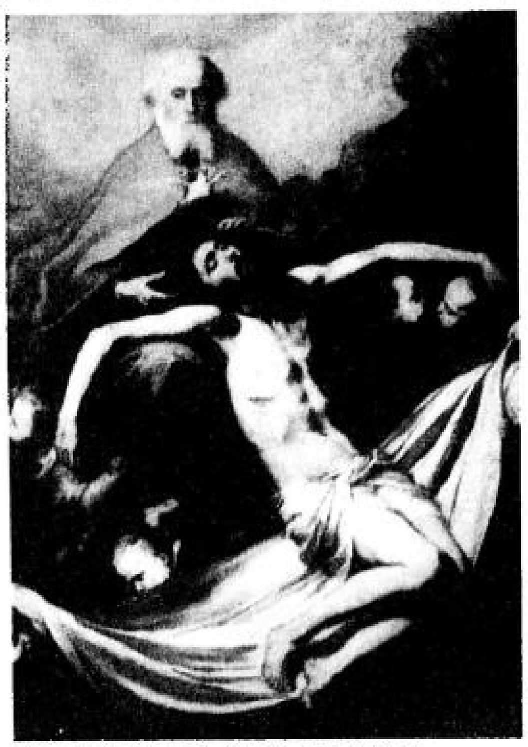
ROBERT Lopez Puckett leaves for Cleveland, Ohio this week to be on time for the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary to visionary Maureen Sweeney on the Feast of the Sacred Heart on June 22 and the Immaculate Heart of Mary on June 23.

The site of the apparitions, which have been taking place since 1985, is on a 85 acres area, 10 miles from the airport. The place, with its chapels and residences, is run by the Missionary Servants of Holy Love.

When he was there on Sept. 14, 2000, Robert took a picture Jesus Christ looking down on the people below while they celebrated the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross.

Robert has been to most of the apparition places of the Virgin Mary, except Medjugorje. Since Yugoslavia has ceased to have diplomatic relations with the Philippines, it is now difficult to get a visa to go there.

He also told me he saw two busloads of Filipinos in Cleveland the last time he was there. Other apparition sites in the States are Fosteria, Ohio where Our Lady of America appears. There's also Scottdale, Arizona where Our Lady of Scottdale talks to a visionary. Those who want to ask Robert how to get to Cleveland can call him at 724-4812 or fax 724-0223.



THE DEAD Christ with God the Father

Sacred Heart novena

THE NINE-DAY novena to the Sacred Heart begins on June 13, 12 nn, at the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart on Dao Street, Makati. The feast of the Sacred Heart falls on June 22, which will be celebrated at the Manila Cathedral with a High Mass at 12 nn.

The other scheduled dates are June 14, Greenbelt Chapel; June 15, Mary Help of Christian Parish; June 16, San Felipe Neri Parish, Mandaluyong; June 17, Immaculate Conception Parish, Pasig; June 18, San Roque Parish, Caloocan; June 19, Holy Sacrifice Parish, UP Diliman; June 20, Mount Carmel Parish, New Manila, QC and June 21 (to be announced).

All Masses are at 12 nn. The novena is being organized by the National Chapter of the Apostleship of Prayer headed by Susan Reyes as president. Chair is Rosario Medina. Cochairs are Carmen Bernas, Ging Santos and Pilar Cosico.

Legazpi diocese marks 50 years

THE DIOCESE of Legazpi turns 50 on June 29, feast of Saints Peter and Paul. A historical book titled "Earthen Vessels" is being prepared to show the evangelization of the place since 1578 by the Spanish Franciscan missionaries.

To be able to achieve this, the diocese is turning to its parishioners for support and to readers of this column who have been instrumental in the formation of priests, the building of churches and the provision of images to poor parishes.

This early, we are asking you to write to Msgr. Ralph Salazar, chair of the Diocesan Golden Anniversary c/o the Chancery Office, P.O. Box 38, Legazpi City 4500. Or you can make your donation to the BPI Albay branch. Make check payable to Golden Jubilee, account no. 0-8551079-11. *Dios mabalos*!

So sorry, Mama Mary

MAY 31, the feast of Our Lady of the Visitation, skipped our minds. The town of Carcar in Cebu celebrated the feast gloriously. Cebuanos who want her *estampita* can write me. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

The photo of the Virgin in last week's column was that of the Nuestra Señora de Guia, not Our Lady of Manaoag.

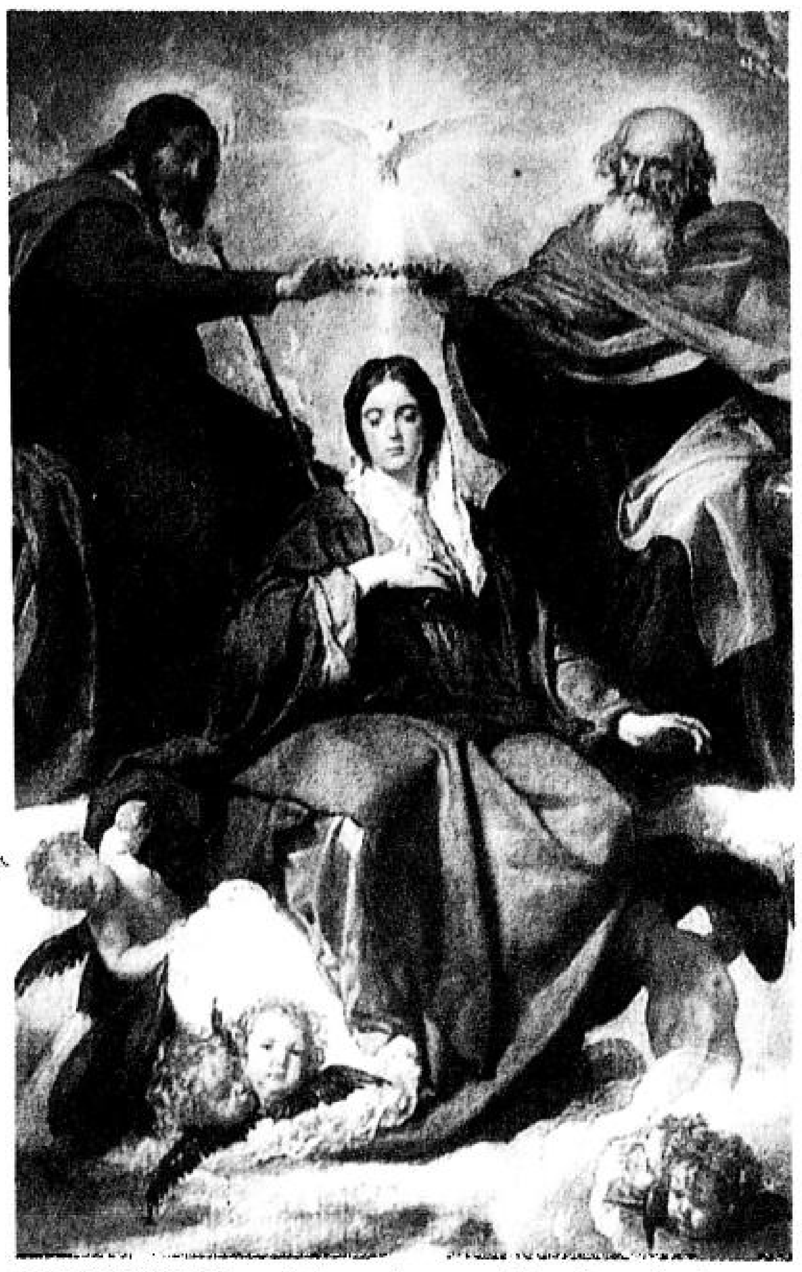
Rodrigo, not Rodolfo

THE REAL name of Dr. Boy Gonzales is Rodrigo, not Rodolfo. Whether Rodolfo or Rodrigo, says psychic healer Shirley Babiera, there's still something wrong in the numerology which made him attract the accident.

Thank you, kind readers

THE STUDENTS who wanted to continue their studies can do so now when kind readers responded to our call for help. Actually, I already advanced P2,000 to the kids in Culion, Palawan so they could enroll.

Despite the tragic incidents happening now like the abduction of guests of a resort in Palawan, there are still good people who pause from their busy sked to respond kindly that would make a difference in the lives of these kids.



CORONATION of the Blessed Virgin Mary by the Holy Trinity

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NOW I know that when you are offered a herbal drink or health supplements to improve your health, you should not take it lightly, but seriously. So take heed when you are being offered Reliv products, Symmetry health supplements or Intra juice.

They make a difference in your feeling of well-being. Lately, I've been more energetic to handle work and at the same time do apostolate service. About Intra Juice, beep me at Easy Call 141-020543. For Reliv products, call Rosamy Lim at 872-0162. For Symmetry, call Henree Weiner at 746-0282. Start feeling great.

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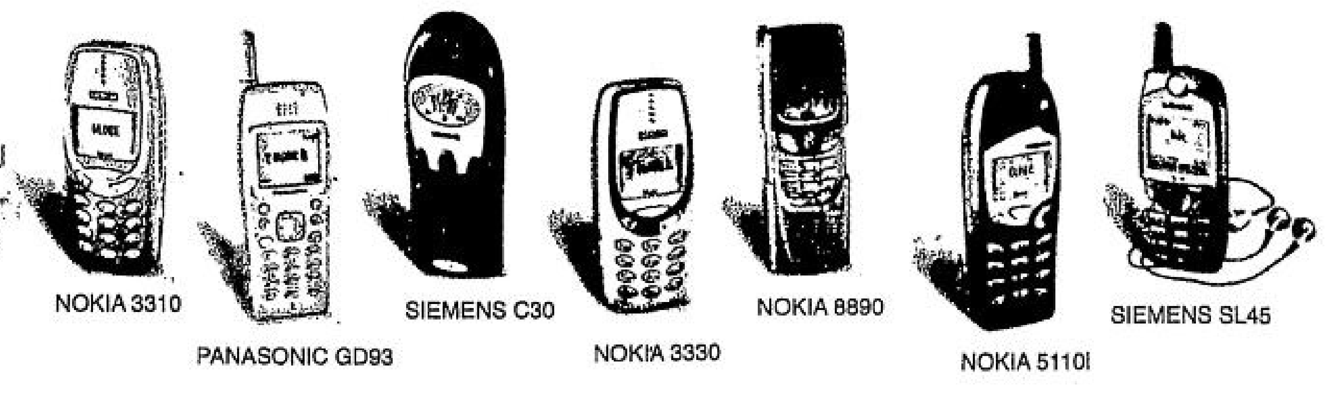

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Reyes at the Drawing Room; Boquiren at Gallery 139; Barrioquinto at West Gallery

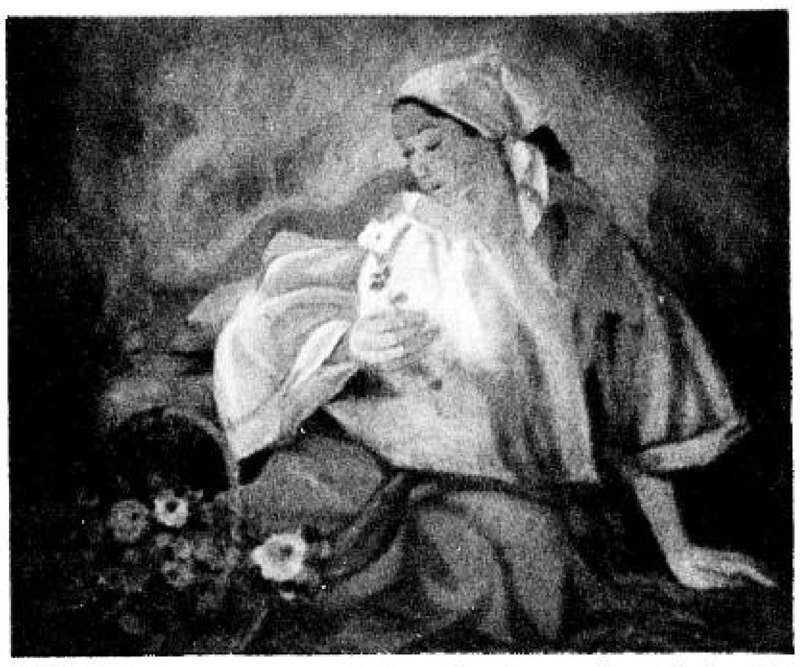
VISUAL ARTS

HANDUMANAN, near the majestic Mt. Kanlaon in Negros Occidental, is Cid Reyes' adopted hometown. The word means "offering"—an appropriate title for his recent abstract works. The "Handumanan" series is his tribute to three Filipino artists—H.R. Ocampo, Jose Joya ,and Lee Aguinaldo. Their works opened the artist's eyes to the possibilities of a Philippine type of abstraction, vitalized by Western influences but imbued with an indigenous feeling for shape and color. The exhibit is on view at the Drawing Room, 1007 Metrostar Building, Metropolitan Ave., Makati City until June 20. Call 897-6990/7877.

BOQUIREN AT GALLERY 139. "Alay," an exhibit of paintings by Remy Boquiren, opens June 7 at Gallery 139, Artwalk, 4/L SM Megamall, Mandaluyong. Women and flowers are Boquiren's forte.

BARRIOQUINTO AT WEST GALLERY. Andres Barrioquinto stages his first major one-man show, dubbed "Stop Killing Me," at the West Gallery, 4/L SM Megamall A, June 7-19. Done using mixed media, the works feature tormented figures seeking beauty both from within and their surroundings. Barrioquinto, who graduated from the UST College of Fine Arts, has won the Metrobank and Art Association of the Philippines awards.

ESCORA AT ENTERPRISE CENTER. Kiko Escora will mount his sixth solo exhibit at the Big and Small Art Gallery of the Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City. His new paintings explore the convenient culture pervading modern life. Dubbed "Synthetic Solitude," the show will run June 19 to July 15. Call 371-8887.


"SA Halamanan," oil on canvas by Remy Boquiren, on view at Gallery 139

CID Reyes at The Drawing Room

ROTHE AT LE SOUFFLÉ. German artist Catrin Rothe opens her latest exhibit organized by Galleria Duemila, dubbed "Colors of Summer," today at Le Soufflé Restaurant and Wine Bar, Fort Bonifacio. She tackles the abundant native flower *gumamela* and her extensive travels around Asia, South America, and Europe. The exhibit runs until July 4. Call Galleria Duemila at 831-9990, 833-9815 or Le Soufflé at 887-5107.

LEBAJO AT CRUCIBLE. Nikulas Lebajo holds a solo exhibit dubbed "Nikulas: New Works," which features the artist's favorite subjects of bottles and jars. The exhibit opens tomorrow and will run until July 24 at the Crucible Gallery, 4/L SM Megamall. Call 635-6061.

AQUILIZAN AT LOPEZ MUSEUM. Freddie Aquilizan presents his latest exhibit, dubbed "Maquiling." Aquilizan's mixed media paintings, drawings and floor pieces reveal the artist's continuing fascination with materials, shapes, texture and space. The works are executed in a playful mode, in contrast to his better known concept-based installations. The exhibit runs until June 25, at the Lopez Museum Shop, G/F Power Plant Mall, Rockwell, Makati. Call 898-0981.

FRENCH PAINTINGS AT THE MET. The Metropolitan Museum of Manila, with the French embassy in Manila, presents an exhibit of new figurative paintings by six young French artists. Dubbed "Painting (figures) Painting," it features works of Francoise Petrovitch, Philippe Cognee, Didier Dessus, Valerie Favre, Jerome Francois and Philippe Perrot. The exhibit is part of the French Spring in Manila 2001 and will run until June 30. Call 523-7855.

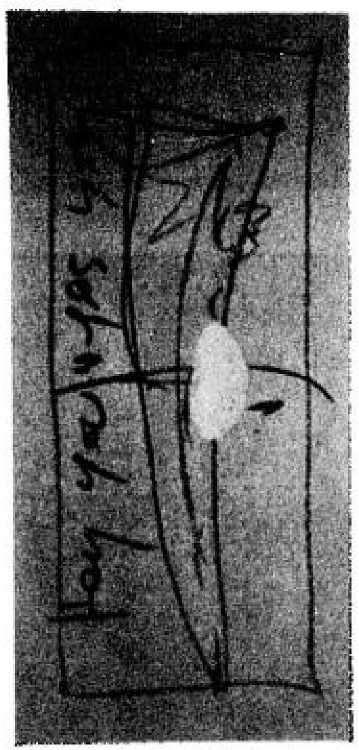
CADAPAN AT MALATE. Expressionist Inday Cadapan will present her recent works at Luna Pizzeria and Tapas Bar, 1820 Ma. Orosa St., Malate, Manila on June 8-30. The 62-year-old artist will exhibit her works on canvas, ceramic tiles and her popular watercolor painting. Call 400-9820.

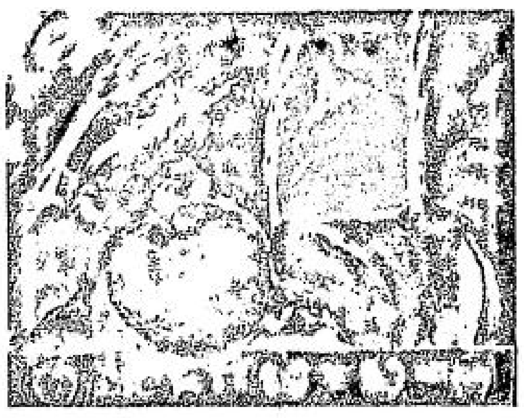
ROJAS AT GLORIETTA. Stella Rojas will open another one-woman show on June 8 at Store Co. Inc. in Glorietta. Dubbed "Tableaux des Fleurs," it features still lifes, a new addition to her signature "Pariscapes."

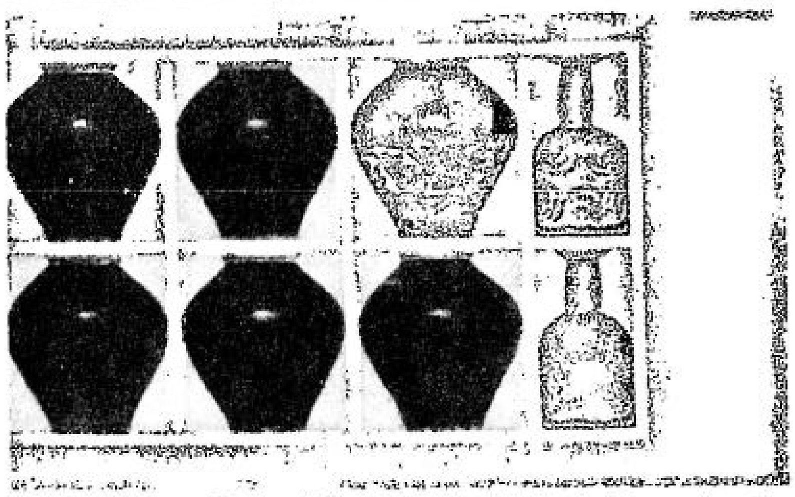
GUIAO AT BLACK FOREST CAFÉ. Letty Velasco-Guiao will hold her third one-woman show at Black Forest Café, Maria Orosa Street, Manila, June 15-30.

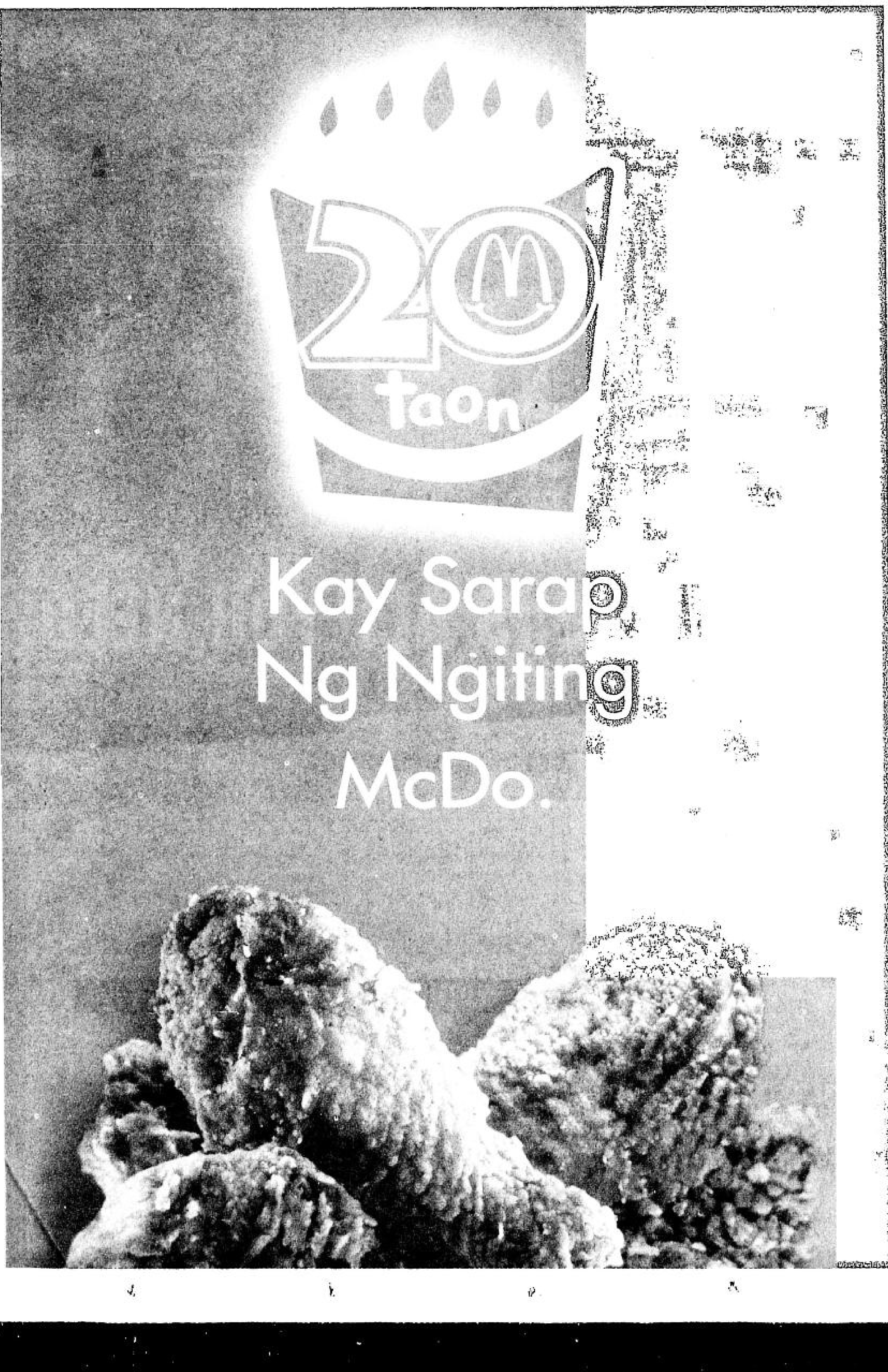
ELECTRONIC MEDIA ART AT ENTERPRISE CENTER. The members of the Philippine Artists in Electronic Media present an exhibit featuring computer artworks. Participating artists are Avic Agcaoili, Chong Ardivilla, Ching Cabangon, Loren de Guzman and Mike Gallardo. The exhibit will run until June 19 at The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City. Call 371-8887.

ARTISTS Juan Alcazaren, Joven Alcala, Nubbin Beldia, Luis Martinez and Bernardo Pacquing will hold their latest exhibit, dubbed "Marginalia," on June 8-20 at West Gallery, 48 West Ave., QC. Call 411-0336/9221.


"HEY YOU, Yes You," charcoal and gouache by Freddie Aquilizan, on view at Lopez Museum Shop


"APPLE and Red Flowers," acrylic on canvas by Catrin Rothe


"JARS with Green Bottles," oil on canvas by Nikulas Lebajo, on view at The Crucible Gallery



Arts and crafts workshop offered

INDUSTRIAL artist and painter Victor Bella, who graduated fine arts in Maastricht Academy of Visual Arts, Holland, holds a series of weekend art courses known as the Arts Inspiration Series for Fun, Gift Giving and Profit. The workshop schedule and description can be accessed at his site at www.geocities.com/victor_bella/schedule.html.

Group courses include Artistic Candle Making with Decorative Mold Making, Decorative Painting on Glass Metal and Ceramics, Acrylic Painting on Canvas, Flower Sculpture, Figurine Making and Decorative Silicone Rubber Mold Making.

Artistic Candle Making will cover how to produce candle such as figurine, layered, container, gel and floating with special features such as aroma therapy, scented, slow burning, dripless, handpainted and insect-repellent versions including decorative mold-making techniques.

Decorative Painting on Glass, Metal and Ceramics will teach how to transform inexpensive materials sparkle with color and elegance. Projects include gemstone perfume bottles, floating candle container, canister, mugs and vases.

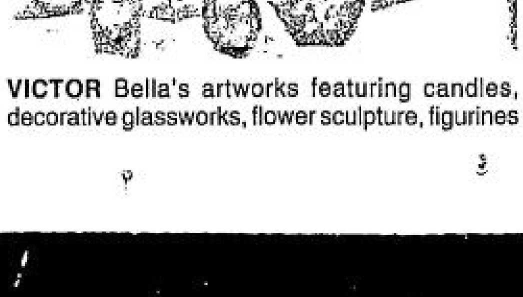
Figurine Making covers how to make transparent, translucent, opaque figurines, jewelry boxes and picture frames out of resin.

How to Paint Nature in Acrylic includes basic and advance techniques in painting on canvas. Students will learn how to handle painting with ease and tackle landscapes, flowers, underwater and cloudscapes.

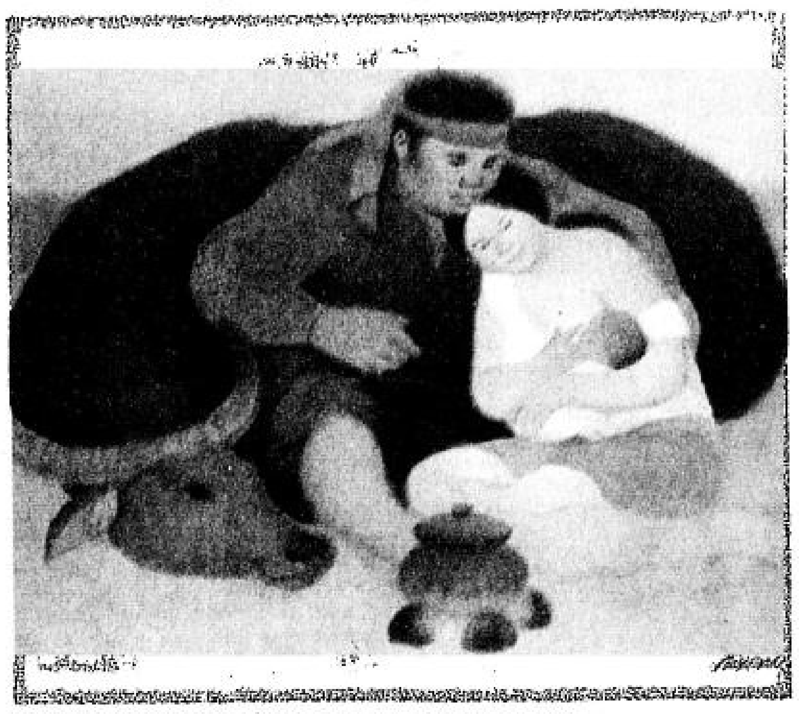
Silicone Rubber Mold Making will teach how to produce decorative mold made out of extremely durable rubber for mass reproduction of artworks such as figurines, candles, jewelry boxes and picture frames.

Flower Sculpture includes the creation of nonwithering vibrant and colorful flowers in both classic and modern styles using either oven-fire able or air-drying clay. Flowers to be produced are orchids, roses, calla lilies, daisies, tulips and sunflowers.

Tutorials are also offered. Participants will receive complete and updated information with hands-on training. Those may visit www.geocities.com/victor_bella for work samples or www.geocities.com/victor_bella/schedule.html. Call 890-3778 or (0917) 368-3212 during office hours (10 a.m.-12 nn and 1-5 p.m., Mondays to Fridays). Workshop starts June 9 at 30 Polaris St., Bel-Air, Makati.


VICTOR Bella's artworks featuring candles, decorative glassworks, flower sculpture, figurines

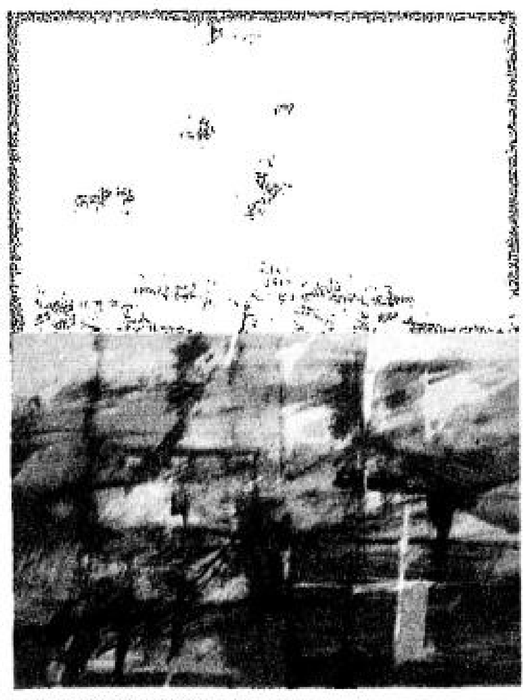
Malang, Bungian and Onglepho at Asia Art Gallery



"**A NEW** Life" by Bungian

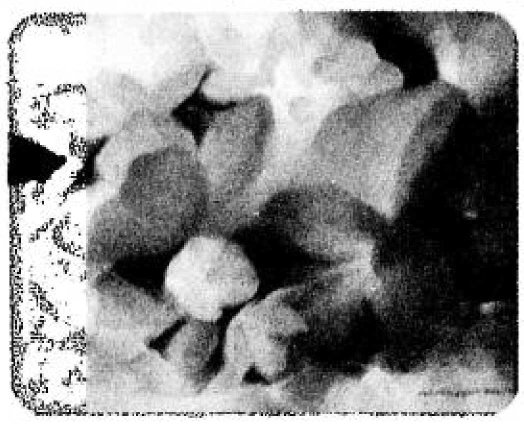
ARTIST-FRIENDS Malang, Bungian and James Onglepho will exhibit their latest works at Asia Art Gallery, 6/L Shangri-La Plaza Shopping Mall, Edsa, Mandaluyong City on June 9-19.

In the show, Malang recalls the "*barong-barong*," a subject matter he tackled in brilliant color early in his painting career. Bungian returns to his favorite subject, the family, while James Onglepho focuses on mountain landscapes and colorful flowers. Call 632-1433.

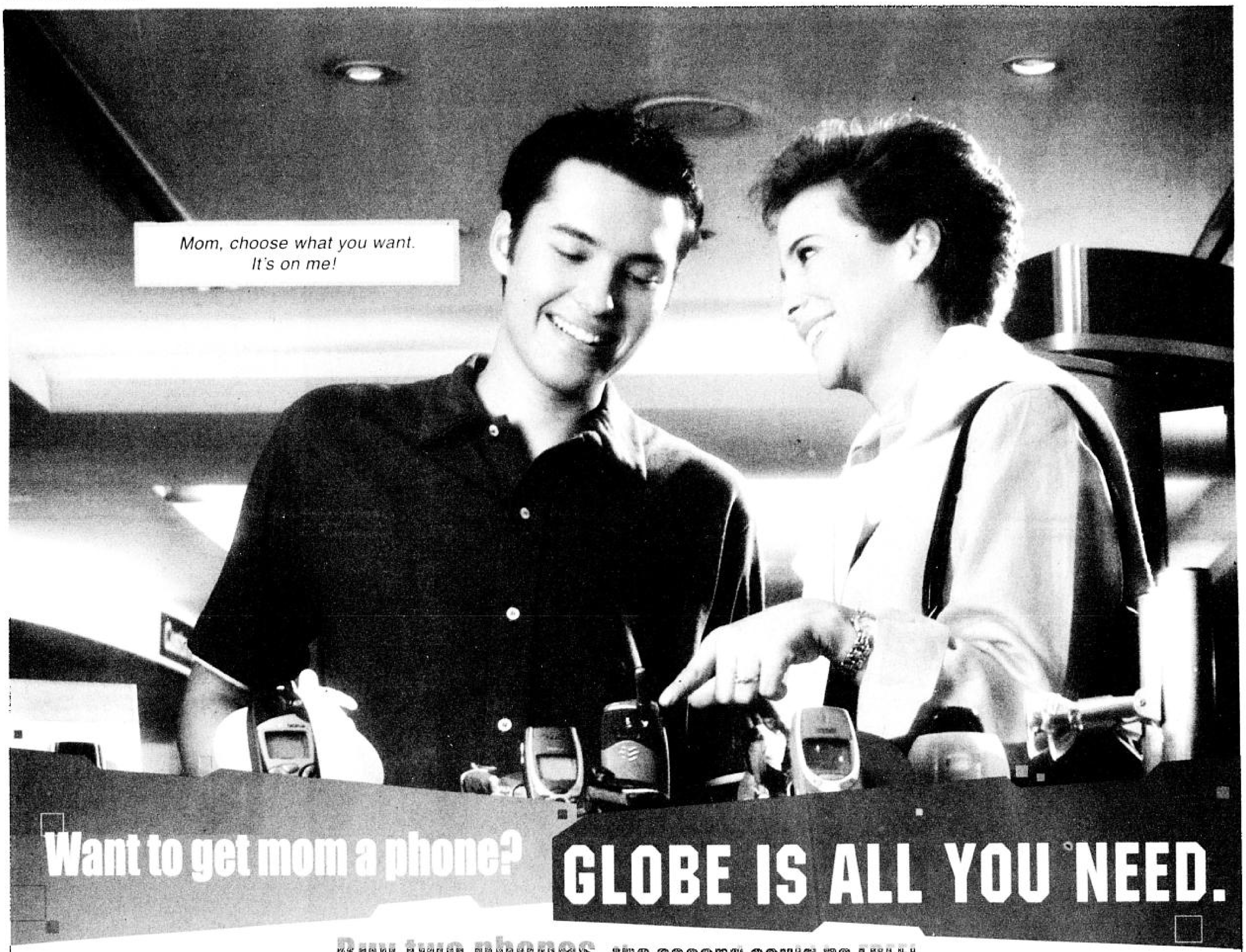


"**THE YELLOW** Sky" by Malang

BUNGIAN, Malang and Onglepho



"**SHARING,** 2001-24" by James Onglepho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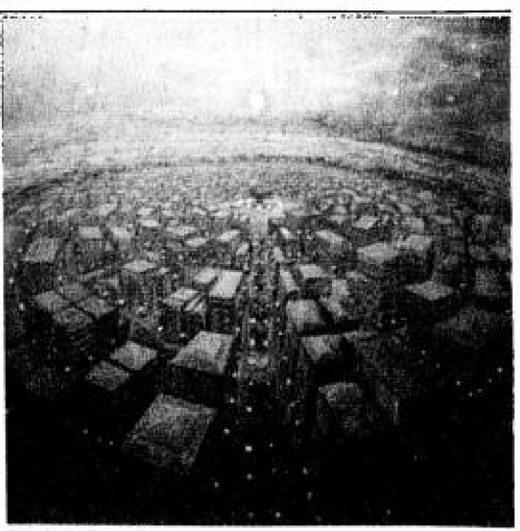
Montemayor's conquest of space

By Gino Dormiendo

A TYPICAL urban community today, with its mix of high-rise residential tenements and sprawling commercial space, both of a generally makeshift character, yields a constantly shifting appearance in both the physical and metaphysical realms, depending on the time and space it is conjured. This; in sum, is the main subject of Ferdinand Montemayor's recent works in oil titled "Isang Araw, Isang Bayan," which, in a sense, chronicles the diurnal and nocturnal events as seen in the time of day or night, as well as in the various activities both indoors and outdoors, which the artist has laid bare for us to see, in macro vision, what goes in behind the walls and crevices of a burgeoning middle-class town and beyond.

The titles Montemayor has chosen likewise allude to the particular time indicated, as in the three-panel work "Morn," "Noon" and "Evening," which basically retains the same view of the place with the more



"FULL Moon"

visible changes occurring only in the movement of the sun and moon and the ethereal light being cast on the place. The signature piece adorning the main wall of the Finale is called "Full Moon," which shows a cross-section of the dwellers as they spend the exact time the moon is rising in the heavens. casting its glow as a dragnet on the entire place.

In another work titled "Full Moon," the artist captures the deathly stare of the moon, its eerie pale-blue light looking like a giant orb. The nondescript buildings as well as the towering mountain peaks in the foreground, cast their forlorn shadows, illuminated only by streetlights and the moon's hazy glow. Montemayor, however, is not merely interested in juxtaposing man-made structures with those created by God. He seems to be interested in contrasting light and darkness, as in night and day, or, better still, the substance of illusion and reality, as he unmasks these polar opposites in his canvases.

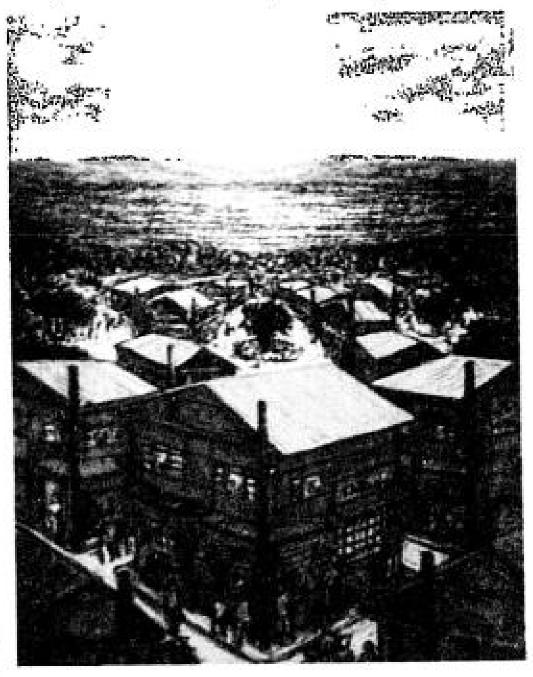
Space fondness

The artist has been long overfond of space, this time, however, he prefers to ruminate on space as a dimension that must be jointly explored with time. And, indeed, in the space of just one day, and with a burgeoning *bayan*, with all its follies and foibles, he has struck the Pinoy's sensitive nerve.

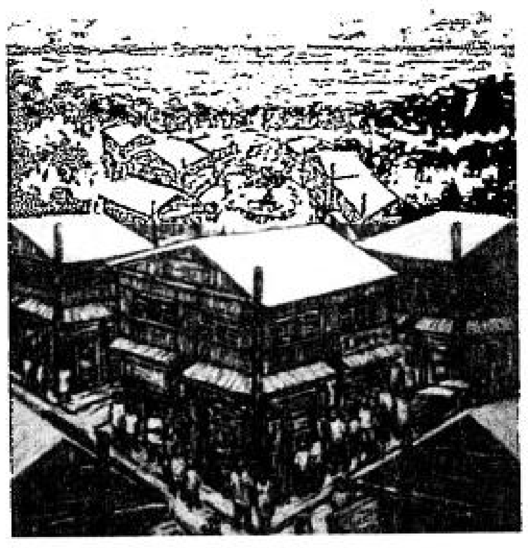
In the two works that deal with doors, Montemayor explores more than just the subject of space as arbiter of decorum. Here, we are shown the goings-on by the periphery of the concrete walls. The nondescript faces, the cold, impersonal stares, the constant traffic of people and objects—all these are portents of a drastically changing landscape, physical and sociological, that has swept many parts of the country in the name of progress.

Montemayor works in the style of expressionism which blends well with his chosen subject, as essentially a satirical jab at how edifices—dwellings and places of work—have shaped the norms and values of our people who have to contend with cramped inhuman surroundings in the face the enormous countryside.

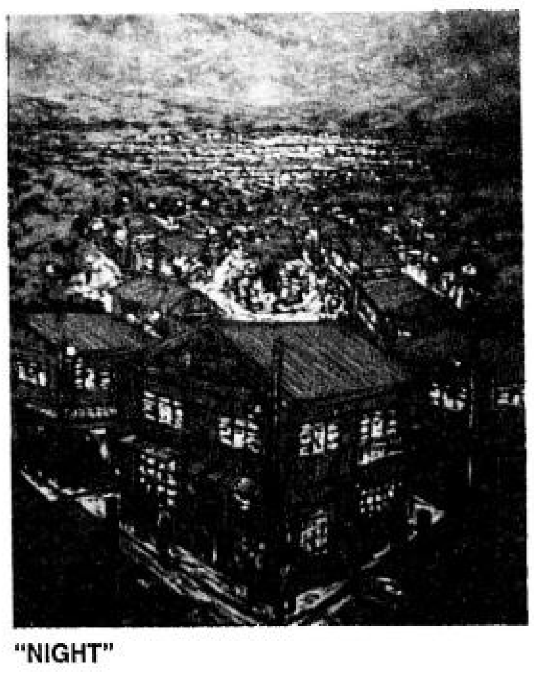
The show offers a fertile ground for sociopolitical commentary on the behavior of Filipinos who now dwell in these surroundings. With roots firmly rooted in figurative expressionism, Montemayor is indeed telling us that there is more to the place than what meets the eye. In the case of his works in "Isang Araw Isang Bayan," he has encapsulated the essential face of the Pinoy, and what he has become today, thanks to the strange mixture of weather, politics and place.



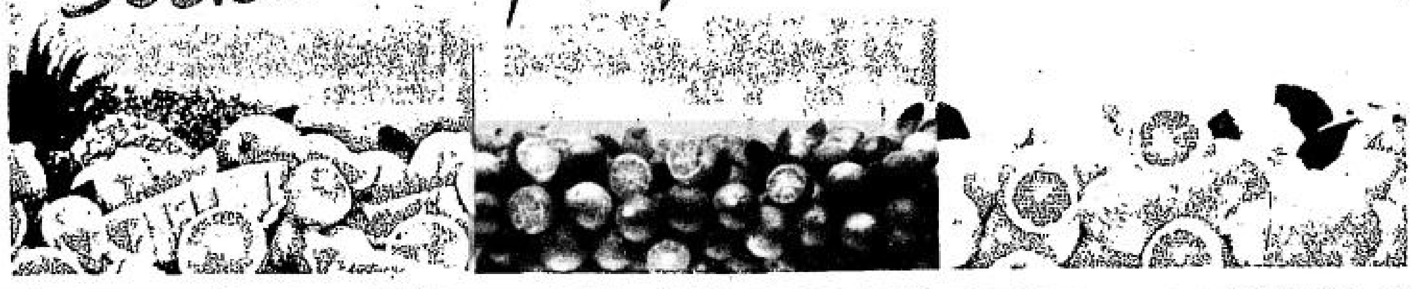
"MORN"



"NOON"



"NIGHT"



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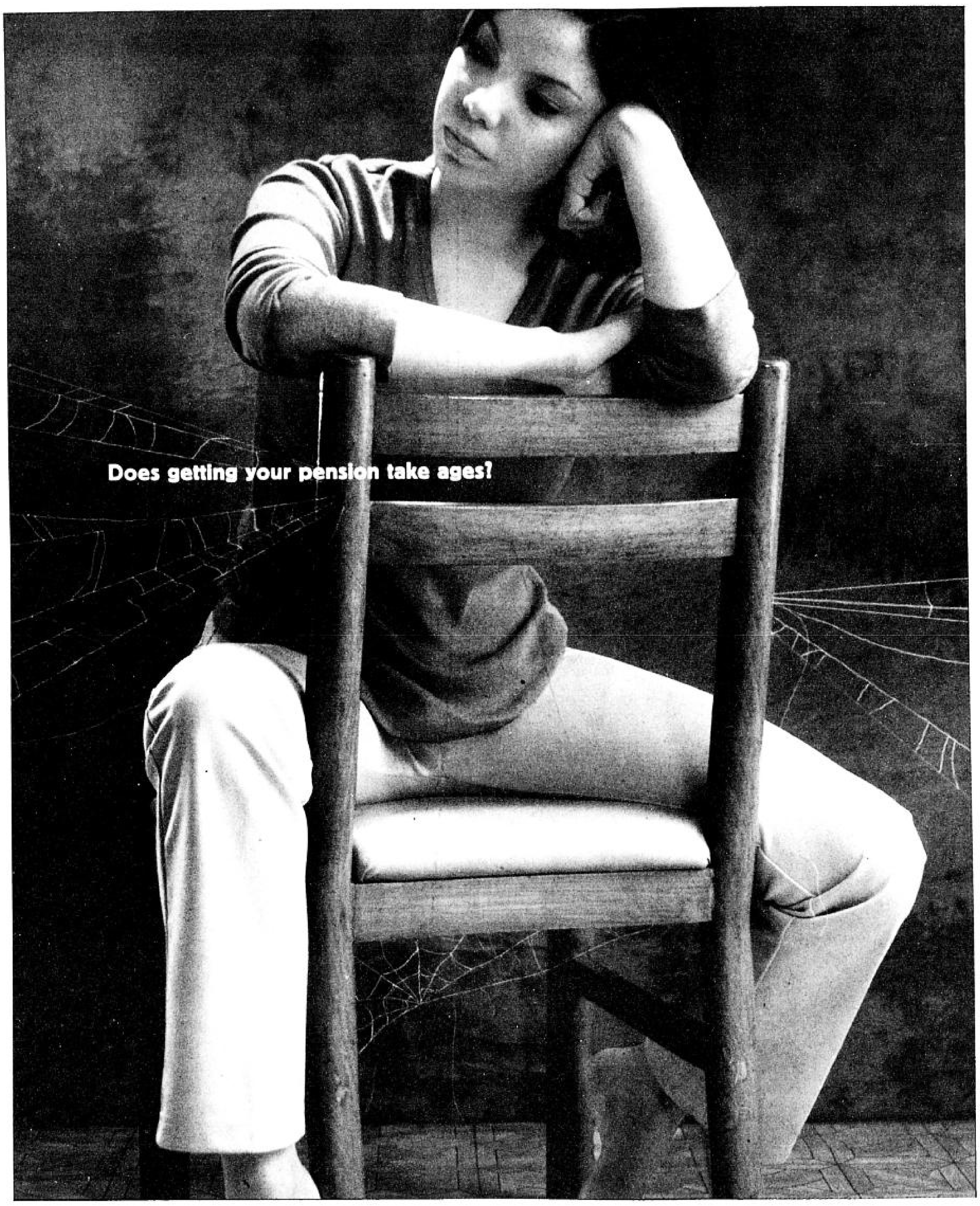
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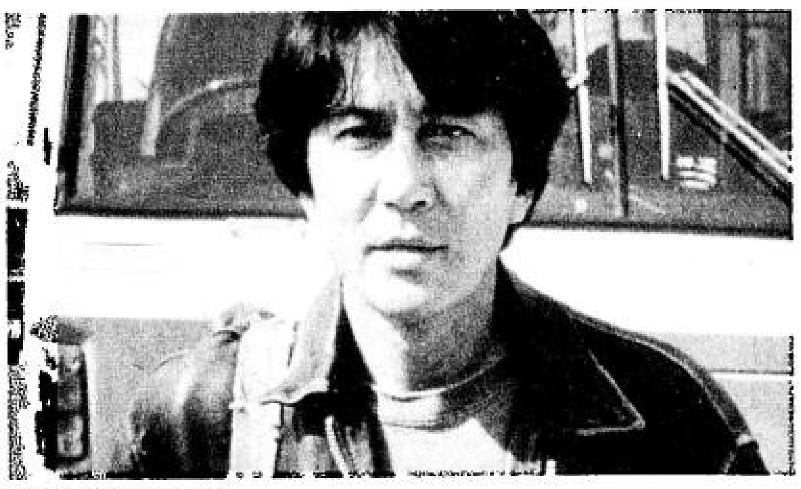

"EUREKA" (Japan)

The highs and lows of the Singapore filmfest

By Raymond Lee

SINGAPORE—Orgy and Singapore are two words that don't exactly go together, unless maybe you were asked to illustrate what an oxymoron was. In a country where even the music and video CDs are censored, a festival of international films mercifully left untouched by the censors' snippers is nothing less than heaven-sent. Had this been a less staid (some would say "repressive") society, you would almost expect the tabloids to cry out: "Uncut flicks result in multiple orgasms!"

This year's 2½-week (film) orgy—Singapore's 14th—began with the screening of Edward Yang's universally acclaimed "Yi Yi" (Taiwan) and closed with Aoyama Shinji's "Eureka" (Japan), which took Best Picture in the festival's competition program. In between, over 300 films were shown to a hungry audience that came in droves and filled several screenings to capacity.

Among the most popular with festivalgoers were the Japanese entries. Quite predictable, really, given Singapore's—as well as several other Asian countries'—fascination for all things Japanese. Now if only the movies weren't as predictable. Save for a few exceptions—"Eureka" being the most notable of them—Japan's recent output seems to indicate that the resurgence of the past decade is on the wane.

Strained

"Kaza-Hana, Nichiyobiwa Owaranai (Sunday's Dream)," "Himawari (Sunflower)," "Scout Man" and "19," to cite some of the new Japanese films exhibited, never quite match their pretensions and ambitions with the necessary skill or vision. Often straining to follow in the footsteps of the recent masters of Japanese-Asian cinema such as Takeshi Kitano, Hirokazu Kore-Eda, or Taiwan's Hou Hsiao-hsien, the younger filmmakers strike instead at something resembling obsequiousness; in their eagerness to mass-produce art in their moviemaking, they have

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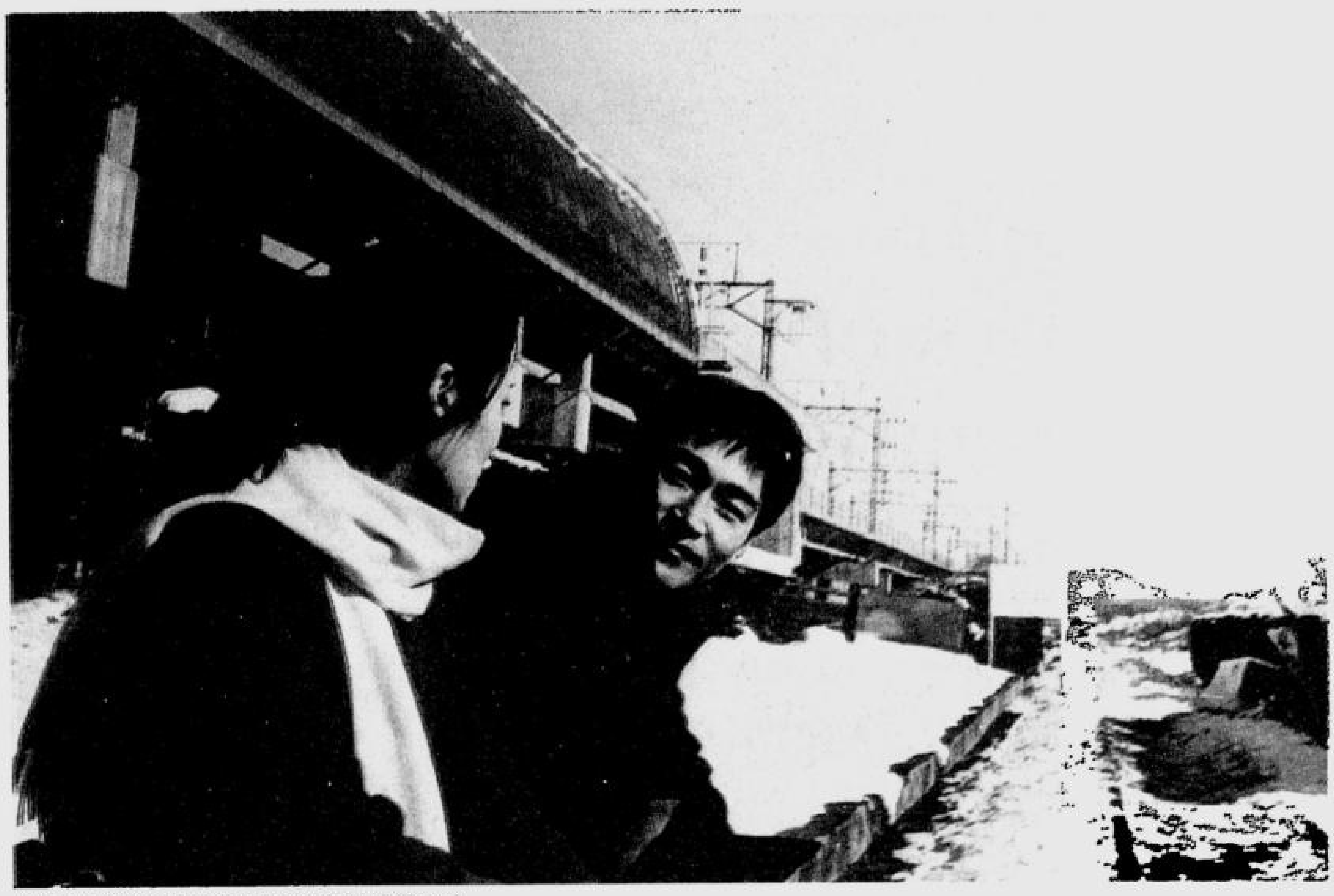

"VIRGIN Stripped Bare by Her Bachelors" (Korea)

The Japan entries seem strained, a Taiwan film feted in Berlin shows why Berlin cannot be trusted, Iran continues to excite, and Brocka and O'Hara do the Philippines proud

"SEGIMAL" (Korea)

The highs and lows of the Singapore filmfest

(From page E1)

come up with a Hello Kitty art cinema of sorts, designed for instant international festival and art-house consumption. How's this for another oxymoron that's increasingly not necessarily so: formula art.

Jump-cut to Taiwanese cinema, another staple of the art film circuit in the past decade, no, two. Its brightest boys, namely Hou Hsiao-hsien, Tsai Ming Liang, Edward Yang and Ang Lee have won just about every honor and accolade there is to win in every film-going corner of the globe, Hollywood included. This year it was represented in Singapore by yet two internationally awarded works. One is a gem, the other a dud.

The gem is Yang's "Yi Yi," three hours of seamless, pitch-perfect storytelling. Not much concept here, just the basic, day-to-day lives and loves of your basic, present-day family living in Taipei, people the director seems to know intimately and definitely cares passionately about. No beating on the chest, no yelling, "God, I'm clever!" Nothing terribly earth-shaking, either, if you ask me, but it probably did deserve all the awards it got (New York's and Los Angeles' film critics deemed it last year's Best Foreign Language Film, Cannes recognized Yang with a Best Director trophy), plus the nomination and award it didn't get—the Oscars' best foreign pic(k) was another Taiwanese director's movie, remember?

But then again awards have always been a funny thing. After all, this year's Berlin fest gave the Best Director prize to Lim Cheng-sheng for "Betelnut Beauty" and confirmed that film awards *are* funny and should never be taken seriously. Chang Chen ("Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon's" bandit/lover) and Malaysian singer Angelica Lee Xin-jie give okay performances in this awful mess whose scenario consists alternately of non-scenes and clichés.

Art without trying

Time, I guess, for a pill. And if there were an antidote to films trying to pass themselves off as art, it would have to be a dosage of films that *are* art without even trying. I'm talking about Iranian films. This year, as before, they didn't disappoint.

"PANGAKO ng Puso" (Philippines)

"Djomeh" (written, directed and edited by Hassan Yektapanah) is so simple it hurts. Most of it happens in plain, and pure, conversations between Djomeh, a young Afghan refugee, and his Iranian boss. While evidently inspired by the filmmaking style of his mentor, the Iranian master Abbas Kiarostami, Yektapanah veers away from the former's highly philosophical slant and is more concerned with character and, yes, even a bit of story. Djomeh, as acted by Jalil Nazari, is an unforgettable character. His simple-minded eloquence, romantic ideals and dogged if misplaced trust in human goodness are genuinely affecting and affectingly genuine. Even in the face of racial discrimination subtly but unmistakably directed against him, he blooms for the simple reason that he is in love.

"The Day I Became a Woman" is directed by a woman, Marziyeh Meshkini, and written and produced by a man—one of Iran's great filmmakers, Mohsen Makhmalbaf ("A Moment of Innocence," "Gabbeh"). Told in three segments that depict the oppression of Iranian women from the cradle to the grave, it is unforgettable for its breathtakingly beautiful middle episode, which takes place in the course of a bicycle race for women. So seamlessly shot and edited it seems like one long take (more like one magical dream, actually), it follows a group of women racing against each other on their bicycles—a surreal sight as A) they are racing on a deserted highway in the middle of nowhere, and B) like all Iranian women, they are all clad in black from head to foot. In particular we follow Ahoo, one of the competitors. She is not only racing against the other women but against the horse-riding men from her village—first her husband, then her father and uncles, then her brothers—who chastise and condemn her for asserting her will, for going against their tribe's custom, for going against being a "woman" according to their definition.

"The Circle," directed and edited by Jafar Panahi ("The White Balloon") from Kambozia Partovi's script, deals with the same issue of restrictions imposed by Iranian society on its women, but employs considerably less artifice and more hard-edged social realism than is usual for the typical Iranian film. It is startling in its directness, especially if you consider the harsh censorship code of Iran, and is the most confrontational Iranian film I have seen so far.

Ironic

One of the curious, ironic things about Iranian cinema is how the very severe restrictions on it has caused it to bloom into one of the most unusual cinemas in the world. While being highly specific to the point of microscopic, it somehow still takes on an effortlessly allegorical feel; one that revels in ideas and conversations and yet at the same time is hardly ever literal; one that shuns sex and violence but romances the Word so skillfully it takes on a sensual, sometimes devastating, power. Usually, it is never as direct

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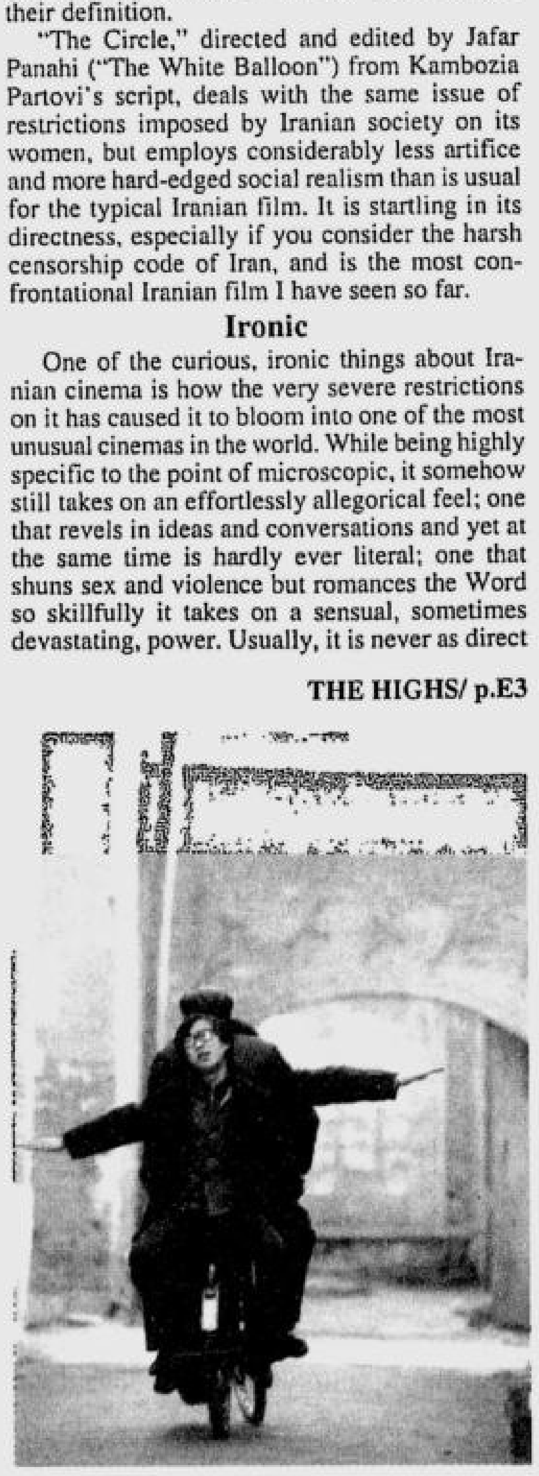

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The highs and lows of the Singapore filmfest

(From page E2)

as "The Circle." Which is not to say that "The Circle" is not Iranian in its sensibility or that it is an inferior Iranian film. On the other hand, that a film of such force *and* beauty has come from Iran is further evidence that this country is perhaps the most exciting place to make movies in at the moment.

Korea may have to wait to merit such a distinction, but it is inching its way closer. On the whole, it has surpassed its proud neighbor Japan, at least as far as the two countries' current crop of movies are concerned. Korea's film industry seems rejuvenated, its output fresher and more daring than ever.

Written by Kim Myoung Kon and directed by Korea's most prolific (over 100 films to his credit) and probably most internationally recognized filmmaker, Im Kwon Taek, "Chunhyang" is the first South Korean film to screen in competition at the Cannes festival. It is a period costume epic based on a Korean folk tale about forbidden love, lavish in its intensity and almost over-the-top in its eye-popping visual splendor.

In stark contrast to this rousing spectacle is the low-key, black-and-white "Virgin Stripped Bare by Her Bachelors" (written and directed by Hong Sang-soo). This experimental piece shows a series of scenes involving the protagonists of a love triangle, and then re-runs everything, with scenes added, removed, or changed—"Rashomon" with a smile, or smirk.

Even more brilliant and daring in conceptualization was Jia Zhangke's "Platform" from China. Spanning from 1979 to the late 1980s, it focuses on a group of amateur theater troupe performers in their sleepy town and as they go on the road. There is no story, just a series of scenes as the lives of these performers progress or regress, and in the process subtly reflects the sweeping changes in the cultural and socio-economic life of the entire nation. The force of this extraordinary film only hits you as it ends, and even then not all at once. Even after you leave the cinema it stays with you, and grows on you. It is one of the saddest movies I have ever seen, and probably the best in the festival.

"KRAMPACK" (Spain)

"YI YI" (Taiwan)

Brocka and O'Hara

Probably, and not *definitely* the best, because "Tinimbang Ka Ngunit Kulang" and "Insiang" were also screened as part of a tribute (not to Lino Brocka who directed these classics of the last Golden Age of Philippine cinema, but) to the multitalented Mario O'Hara who wrote the scripts and acted in the former. Two other movies completed the O'Hara tribute: the memorable "Bulaklak sa City Jail," which was written by Lualhati Bautista, and the recent "Pangako ng Puso," which was screened in competition.

"Pangako ng Puso" was screened to a full house and a second screening was added to accommodate the overflow crowd. It got mixed reviews. Some thought that it was a mess of a movie that tried to say and do too many things at once, and failed. Some were put off either by the shocking ending or the crudeness of the production values, or both. Still, there were those who thought it was both a lyrical elegy to innocence lost and an impassioned cry against military atrocities in the countryside; a foreign film critic familiar with Philippine cinema called it the best Filipino film he has seen in the last five years.

Those who saw O'Hara and Brocka's early collaborations were, however, unanimous in calling "Tinimbang Ka Ngunit Kulang" and "Insiang" excellent. This, in spite of the fact that most of the audience who saw them didn't know who Brocka was. None of them, except the Filipinos in attendance, had even heard of O'Hara before.

After "Tinimbang's" screening I asked a Malaysian film buff who hadn't stopped watching films since the festival began what he thought of the movie. He said he liked it very much. He liked it because it was "highly original." He probably saw the quizzical expression I had, so he explained. It was rare for him, he said, to find something so brave, so unafraid of showing emotion and rooting unabashedly for its characters, so unafraid of telling a story.

A movie is 27 years old and is still considered original. Now, that's a compliment.

Tribute to film critic Hammy Sotto

THE UP College of Mass Communication and its Film and Audiovisual Communication Department and the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino are presenting "Alay kay Hammy," a tribute to Agustin Sotto, 2-4 p.m. today, at the UP College of Mass Communication Auditorium, Diliman, QC.

"Hammy" to his friends and associates, Sotto was a noted film scholar, critic and teacher. He was a member and former chair of Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino and was founding chair of Sofia, the Society of Film Archivists. He was the first director of the CCP Coordinating Center for Film in 1986. He taught film history courses at the UP Film Department and at the De La Salle University Communication Arts Department. He also worked at the National Media Production Center and with the Philippine Information Agency.

The tribute will feature testimonials from friends and coworkers, and excerpts of songs from old films that Sotto was very fond of or that he helped to retrieve or restore, like the prewar films "Pakiusap," "Tunay na Ina" and "Giliw Ko," as well as postwar classics like "Maala-ala Mo Kaya" and "Noli Me Tangere." All friends and associates of Sotto are invited.

Spanish filmmakers are largely unknown to Filipino moviegoers

By CONSTANTINO C. TEJERO

THERE was a time when it seemed only one Spaniard was making films. There was no Spanish cinema to speak of.

It wouldn't be too much of an exaggeration to say that the oeuvre of Luis Buñuel could constitute an entire national cinema. But then the man worked mostly outside of his homeland, in Paris, in Mexico, even in (horrors!) Hollywood.

Yet, like his countryman Pablo Picasso, who also refused to work in Franco's Spain, Buñuel made such works that, though foreign-produced, bear the unmistakable imprint of the dark heart of Spain.

It was not until some decades later, in the wake of Buñuel's passing, that other filmmakers rose to hold up Spanish cinema: Victor Erice, Carlos Saura, José Luis Borau, Pedro Almodóvar, Fernando Trueba, José Juan Bigas Luna, and, lately, Alejandro Amenábar.

Topics that used to be taboo—the Church, the army, the Civil War, sexual relations—were tackled by these filmmakers. But unlike Buñuel, who gleefully assaulted his audiences' sensibilities at every turn, they had to make do with allegories while the generalissimo was still alive: Saura's "The Hunt," Borau's "Furtivos," Erice's "Spirit of the Beehive."

The post-Franco era brought about a superliberated cinema, naturally. Trueba's "Belle Époque," which won the Best Foreign Language Film Oscar, dealt with all four taboos. And there was, of course, the enfant terrible Almodóvar, who was then hoped to take up the mantle of Buñuel.

But then, again, unlike Buñuel, who remained an enfant terrible even in old age, these filmmakers are getting tame of late. Their films, such as "Belle Époque" and "Carne Trémula," are now being released for local theaters and are well-received by ordinary moviegoers.

Not that those films are pap, because they're actually strong stuff, but that their makers have gone somewhat mainstream. In other words, they're no longer as cool as before.

Racial tension

We're sure there are other outstanding Spanish filmmakers still unknown to us, and one or two of them may be bearing the standard of Buñuel.

Just recently, the Cultural Center of the Philippines, in cooperation with Instituto Cervantes, screened two works of these contemporary Spanish filmmakers that Filipino moviegoers have been deprived of.

"Las Cartas de Alou (Letters of Alou)," by Montxo Armendariz, won Best Picture at the 1990 San Sebastian Film Festival. It belongs to a recent crop of European films dealing with the immigrant experience, such as Manuel Poirier's "Western" and Robert Guédiguian's "Marius and Jeannette." But this one is almost a decade ahead of those two 1997 Cannes winners.

Told through the letters of African migrant worker Alou to his family and friends, the story crackles with racial tension and oozes with the pathos of deracination, interracial love affair, modern slave labor. The theme notwithstanding, the characters never dwell on self-pity and the filmmaker refuses to sell melodrama.

The screen is saturated alternately with blue (night scenes) and gold (sunny landscape), hinting at a Manichean dualism, extending to the black and white characters. Yet there are no easy villains and no easy heroes here (unlike in Steven Spielberg's lamentable "Amistad").

"Justino, Un Asesino de la Tercera Edad (Justino, A Senior Citizen Killer)," by José Maria Lara, is a dark comedy about retired bullfighter Justino, a *puntillero* or dagger man, the one who gives the coup de grâce on the nape of the dying bull.

Upon retirement, the appreciative bullfighting company gives him as token and memento a glistening *puñal* (which soon comes handy). In the evening after his final bullfight, he and his friend Samson plan how they'd spend an extended vacation in Alicante, on a beach at Costa Blanca, in a sunny paradise surrounded by complaisant virgins.

Weird proceedings

And soon, in a heroic effort to fight off the degradation of inactivity and old age, and the humiliation of being sent to a home for the aged, our noble bullfighter spends his retirement as if he were still in the *corrida de toros*.

He goes on a rampage killing any person who gets in the way of his intended vacation, even innocent bystanders, until the murders practically constitute a massacre. This is so murderously funny, so deliciously anarchic, Buñuel would have cheered.

The weirdness of the proceedings is announced even in the opening credit sequence. In a slaughterhouse, two men are skinning and hacking the carcass of a bull killed in the *corrida*. But the sound of the ax hacking away at the bones and meat is harshly metallic, it's as if a blacksmith were hammering on an anvil.

We don't know this film's year of release, but by the looks of it (faded print, black-and-white cinematography, '70s-style furniture and clothes, low-tech gadgets), this must have been made years before Almodóvar's dazzling black comedy "Matador" (also about a retired bullfighter, with the same technique of killing, and similar mixture of poetry and high camp, surrealism and satire).

Unlike the embassies of France,

SPANISH/ p.E7

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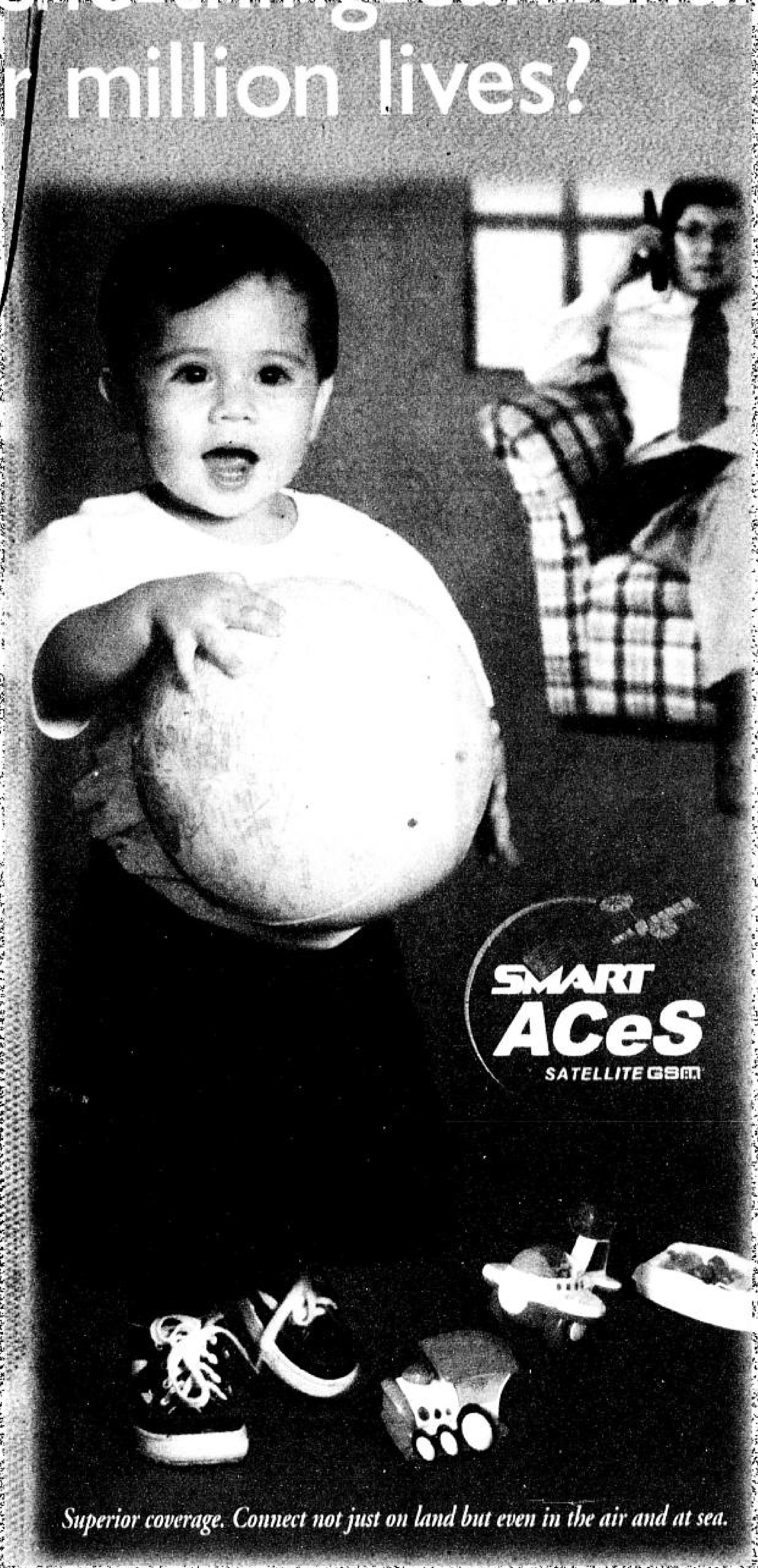
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of the more important things in life.
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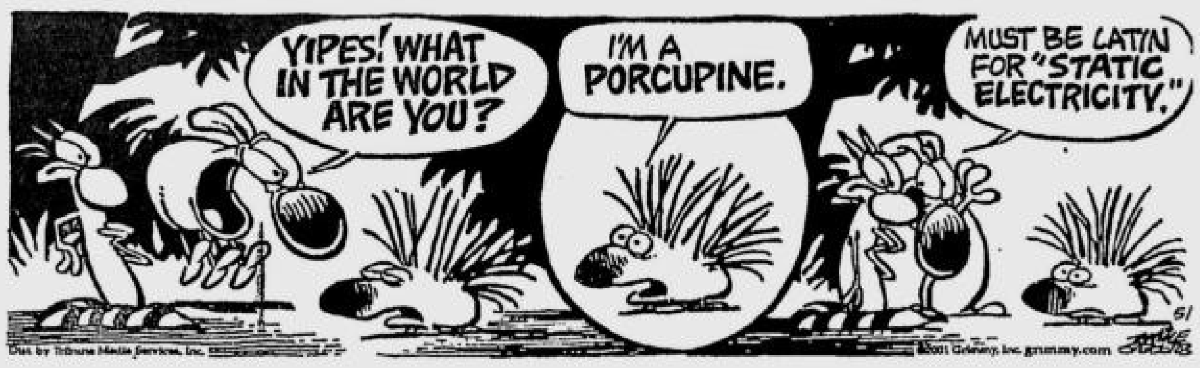
Amazing!

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM
BY MIKE PETERS


YIPES! WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU?
I'M A PORCUPINE.
MUST BE LATIN FOR "STATIC ELECTRICITY."
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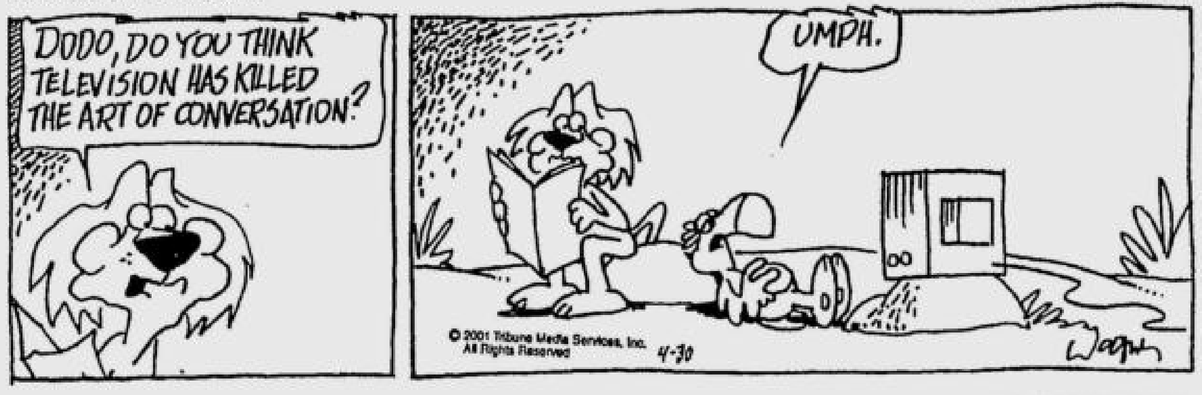
ANIMAL CRACKER
BY FRED WAGNER


DODO, DO YOU THINK TELEVISION HAS KILLED THE ART OF CONVERSATION?
UMPH.
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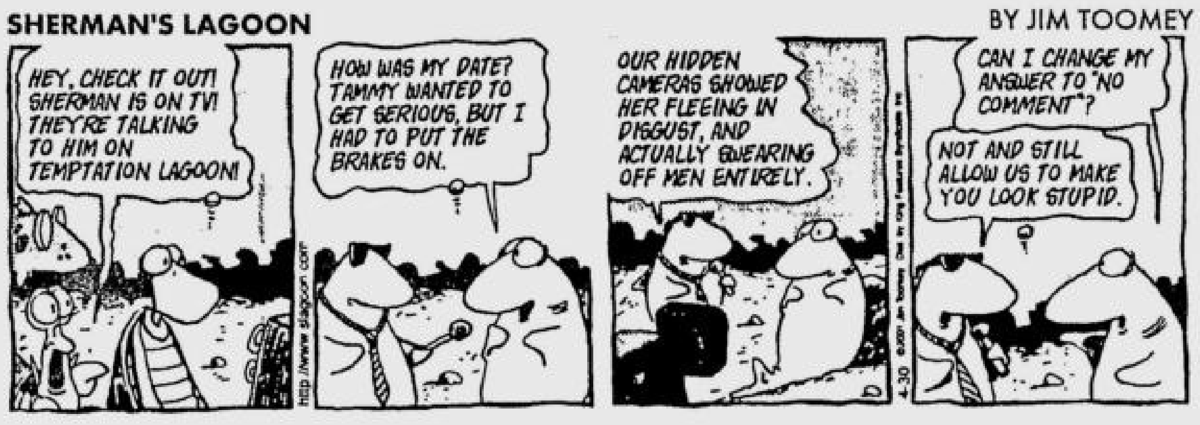
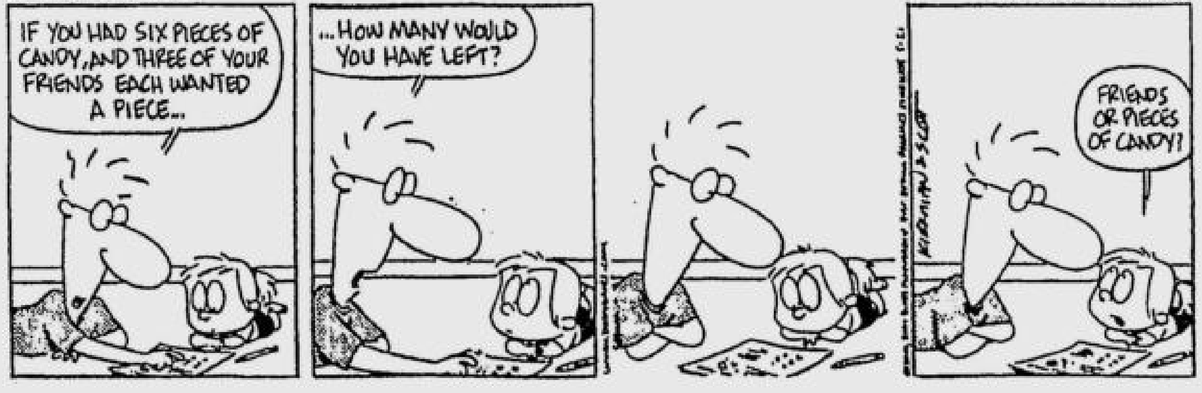
4-30

SHERMAN'S LAGOON
BY JIM TOOMEY


HEY, CHECK IT OUT! SHERMAN IS ON TV! THEY'RE TALKING TO HIM ON TEMPTATION LAGOON!
HOW WAS MY DATE? TAMMY WANTED TO GET SERIOUS, BUT I HAD TO PUT THE BRAKES ON.
OUR HIDDEN CAMERAS SHOWED HER FLEEING IN DISGUST, AND ACTUALLY SWEARING OFF MEN ENTIRELY.
CAN I CHANGE MY ANSWER TO "NO COMMENT"?
NOT AND STILL ALLOW US TO MAKE YOU LOOK STUPID.
http://www.slagoon.com
4-30

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


IF YOU HAD SIX PIECES OF CANDY, AND THREE OF YOUR FRIENDS EACH WANTED A PIECE...
...HOW MANY WOULD YOU HAVE LEFT?
FRIENDS OR PIECES OF CANDY?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Angelina Jolie, Bruce Dern, Parker Stevenson, Dennis Weaver, Dr. Ruth Westheimer, Darci Kistler, Scott Wolf, Michelle Phillips, Noah Wyle

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: You will attract plenty of new friends this year, but also experience some difficulty with the one you love, especially if you are just too busy to pay attention. This can be an exciting year if you set priorities and pace yourself. Your numbers: 5, 12, 18, 22, 24, 29

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will get along surprisingly well with others today. It's a good time to sign legal documents or contracts. Residential moves will be beneficial for your whole family.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your mate will be upset if you haven't paid enough attention. Take time to do something special for him or her. You won't regret it when you see what is offered in return.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can expect someone to say something if you try to exaggerate. Don't make rash statements or say that you'll do something you have no intention of doing.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your creative drive should help you finish some projects you've been working on for some time. You'll receive praise for your ability to work in such fine and intricate detail.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Re-evaluate your own motives. To judge others without taking a good look in the mirror will not help them or you. Your overpowering presence will drive the ones you love away.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your intuition is telling you not to trust people with your personal secrets. Rumor has it that you should have followed your gut feelings. Trouble is brewing, and it's time you put an end to it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You will be emotional regarding joint finances. Don't lend or borrow money or possessions. A tight budget will be necessary if you are going to get out of debt.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will be jealous if your partner is spending too much time with friends. Have patience. The best way to win his or her attention back is to busy yourself with your own interests.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Secret affairs may be likely, but they can damage your reputation. Try to keep your feelings to yourself. Perhaps the person you're seeing will be quiet, too.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't reveal anything about your personal life that could be used against you. It is best to listen for the time being. Drastic financial losses are likely if you lend money.

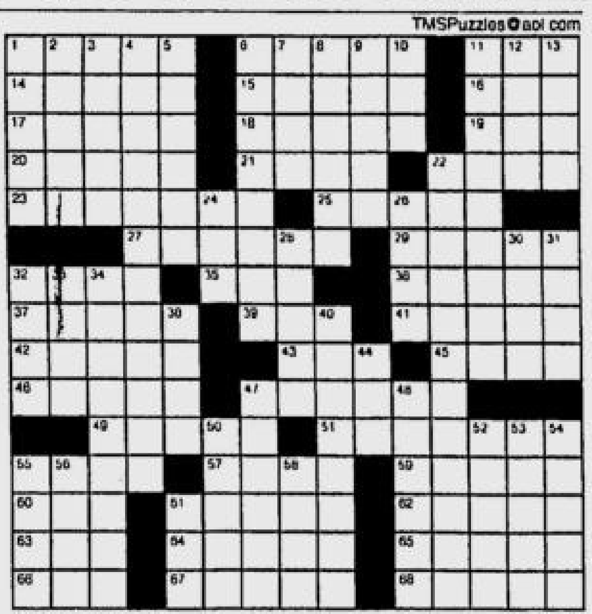
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Taking drastic measures will not help if you have a problem with your mate. Ask someone you respect for his or her opinion regarding your dilemma.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take a trip that will help you to understand the nature of your business better. Work can be rewarding if you visit clients and get to know them a little better. Observation can be your greatest teacher.

Birthday Baby: You are bright, outgoing and alert to what's going on around you. Your observant manner keeps you ahead of your peers and on top of your game. You are charming, inquisitive and versatile.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Edgar Fontaine
Dighton, MA
4/18/01

ACROSS
1 "It's a Wonderful Life" director
6 Enchilada amount?
11 Banned insecticide
14 Helps with the dishes
15 Esteem
16 Perfect game box score
17 Wedding tokens
18 Musical drama
19 Gooey mass
20 Port of Rome
21 Broad
22 Highest point
23 Strait off Sicily
25 Wind: pref.
27 Oodles
29 Like showers
32 Flatfoot's lack?
35 Summer at the Sorbonne
36 With 40D, other gig of 42A
37 Lube again
39 Part of a min.
41 Andean beast
42 With 55D, "Live" co-host
43 Definite article
45 Modern Persia
46 Slovenly people
47 Japanese religion
49 Woman in tears
51 Maltin or Nimoy
55 Bankruptcy
57 Allow to use
59 Bird in "Peter and the Wolf"
60 Part of TGIF
61 Be fond of
62 Located
63 Light touch
64 Pigs
65 Poetic Muse
66 Interjections of delight
67 Writer Chekhov
68 Break times

DOWN
1 Memory disc
2 Get up
3 Quart halves
4 "Live" co-host
5 Set upon
6 With 13D and 22D, other gig of 4D
7 Pueblo dweller
8 Once upon a time
9 Sophia of "A Countess from Hong Kong"
10 Period of history
11 Fido's choker
12 Tragic fate
13 See 6D
22 See 6D
24 Maiden name lead-in
26 Lat. list-ender
28 Pearly whites
30 Thompson of "Dead Again"
31 Actress Cannon
32 Large boats
33 Rod attachment
34 Settlers
38 Antibody prefix
40 See 36A
44 Opposite of WSW
47 Think best
48 Flipper
50 Mishandled
52 Namesakes of a terrier
53 Butler of fiction
54 Carpenter's grooves
55 See 42A
56 Bryce Canyon's state
58 Kiddy prohibition
61 Youth org.

SATURDAY PUZZLE ANSWER

O	L	I	N	■	R	A	M	A	R	■	L	E	V	I
W	E	R	E	■	E	L	O	P	E	■	E	X	A	M
L	A	M	A	■	A	P	N	E	A	■	E	T	N	A
S	P	A	R	E	C	H	A	N	G	E	■	R	E	G
■	■	■	■	S	T	A	■	N	E	W	■	A	D	E
D	E	B	I	T	S	■	L	I	N	E	U	P	■	■
A	D	O	R	E	■	D	I	N	T	■	N	O	T	E
M	I	N	I	■	L	I	V	E	S	■	L	I	O	N
S	T	U	S	■	A	S	I	S	■	B	I	N	G	O
■	■	S	H	E	R	P	A	■	L	O	T	T	O	S
O	H	M	■	A	G	O	■	C	O	N	■	■	■	■
L	E	I	■	R	E	S	E	R	V	E	T	A	N	K
D	A	L	E	■	S	A	M	O	A	■	A	L	E	E
E	V	E	S	■	S	L	I	N	G	■	T	I	R	E
N	E	S	T	■	E	S	T	E	E	■	E	T	O	N

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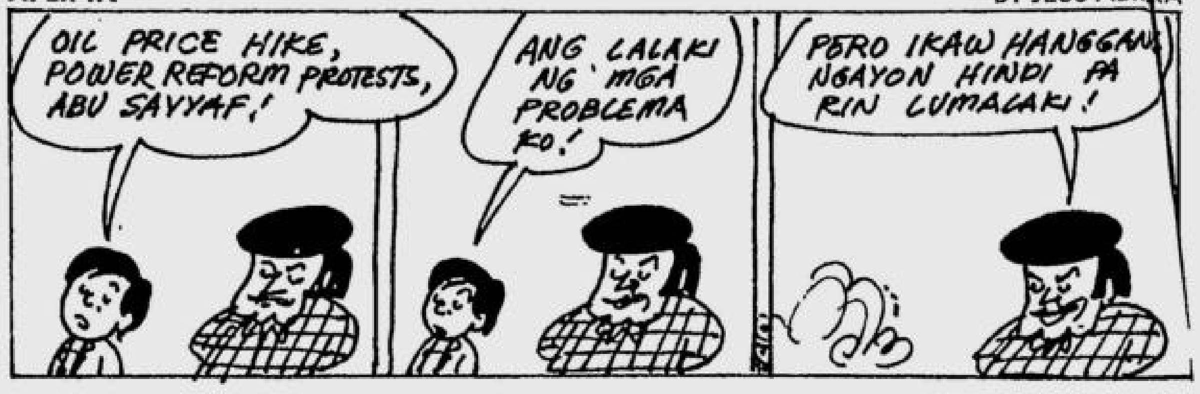
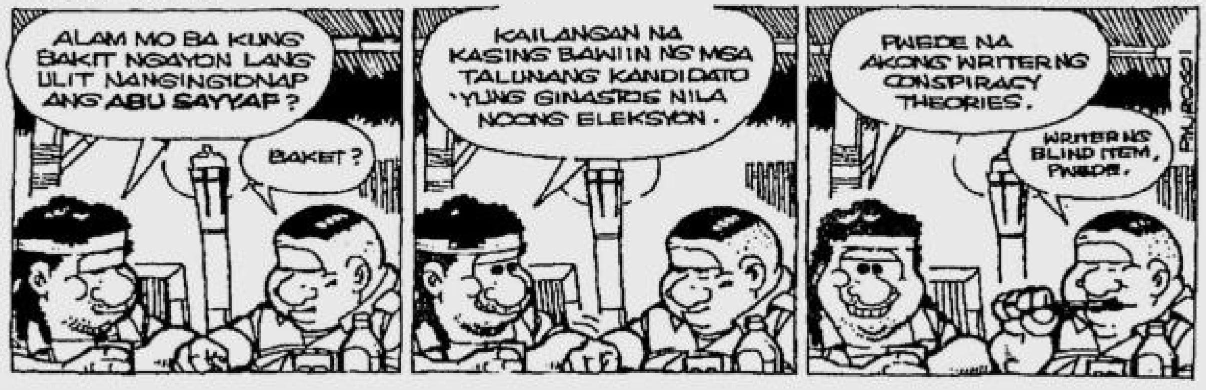
4/18/01

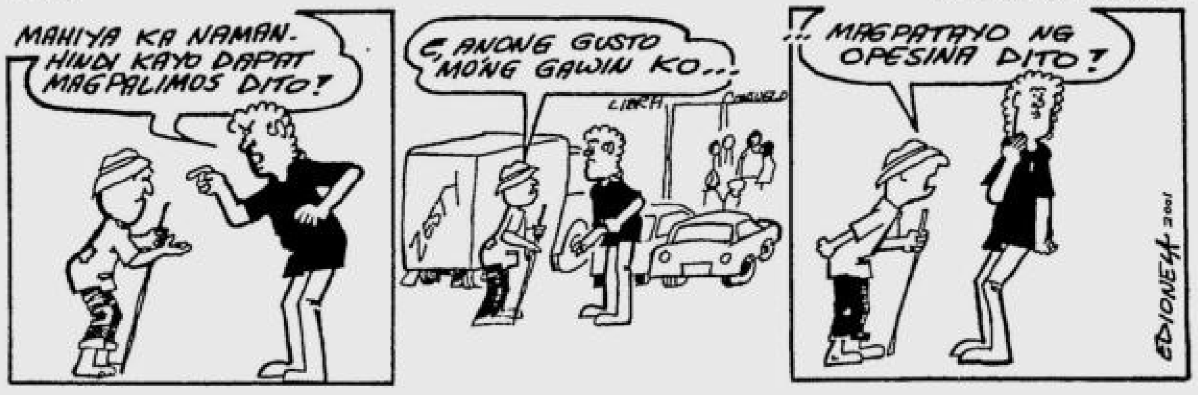
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRRA


OIL PRICE HIKE, POWER REFORM PROTESTS, ABU SAYYAF!
ANG LALAKI NG MGA PROBLEMA KO!
PERO IKAW HANGGANG NGAYON HINDI PA RIN LUMALAKI!

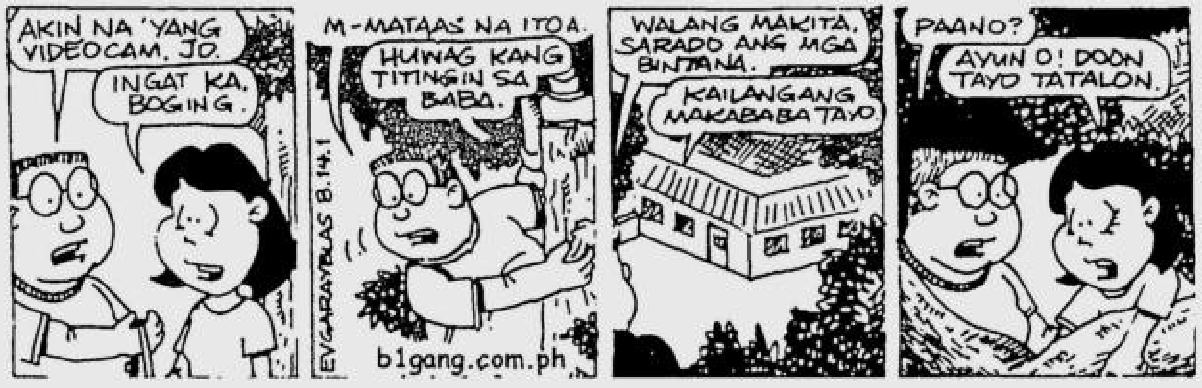
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


ALAM MO BA KUNG BAKIT NGAYON LANG ULIT NANGINGIDNAP ANG ABU SAYYAF?
BAKET?
KAILANGAN NA KASING BAWIIN NG MGA TALUNANG KANDIDATO 'YUNG GINASTOS NILA NOONG ELEKSYON.
PWEDE NA AKONG WRITER NG CONSPIRACY THEORIES.
WRITER NG BLIND ITEM, PWEDE.
PMJR2001

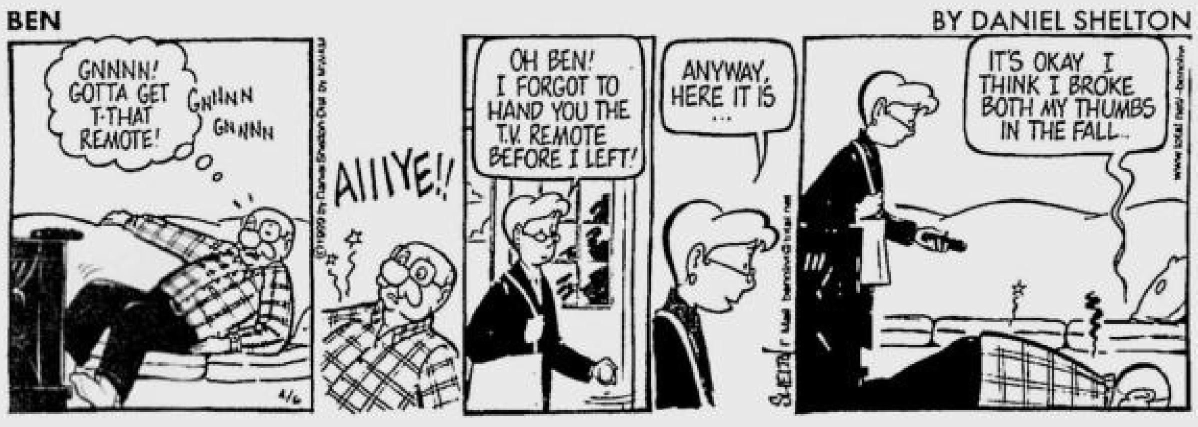
SIMO
BY EDGAR DIONELA


MAHIYA KA NAMAN. HINDI KAYO DAPAT MAGPALIMOS DITO!
E, ANONG GUSTO MONG GAWIN KO...
LIBRA
!? MAGPATAYO NG OPESINA DITO?
EDIONELA 2001

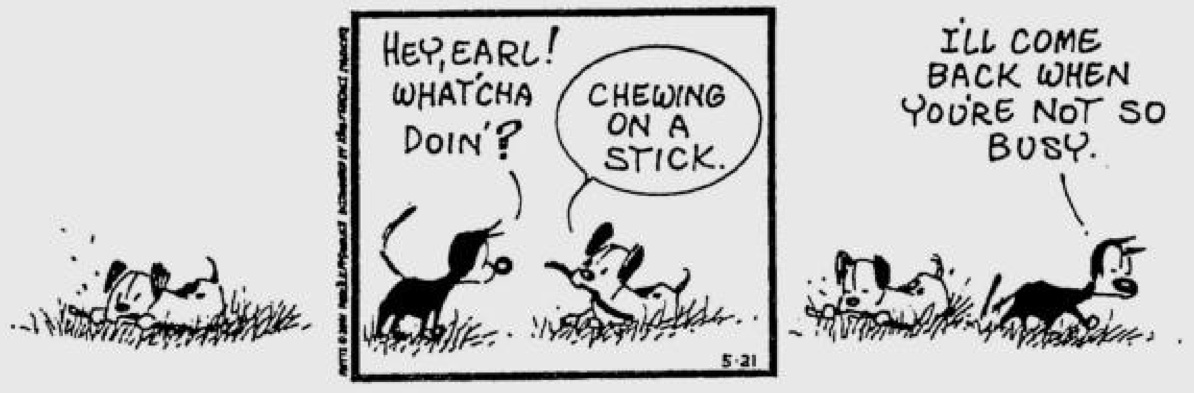
B1 GANG
BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


AKIN NA 'YANG VIDEOCAM, JO.
INGAT KA, BOGING.
M-MATAAS NA ITO A.
HUWAG KANG TITINGIN SA BABA.
EVGARAYBLAS 8.14.1
b1gang.com.ph
WALANG MAKITA, SARADO ANG MGA BINTANA.
KAILANGANG MAKABABA TAYO.
PAANO?
AYUN O! DOON TAYO TATALON.

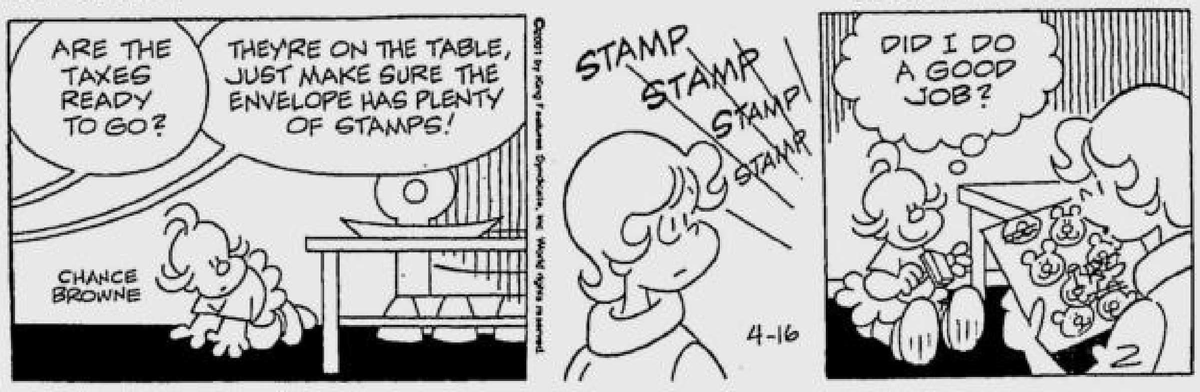
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


GNNNN! GOTTA GET T-THAT REMOTE!
GNNNN GNNNN
AIIIYE!!
OH BEN! I FORGOT TO HAND YOU THE T.V. REMOTE BEFORE I LEFT!
ANYWAY, HERE IT IS ...
IT'S OKAY I THINK I BROKE BOTH MY THUMBS IN THE FALL.
4/6

MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HEY, EARL! WHAT'CHA DOIN'?
CHEWING ON A STICK.
I'LL COME BACK WHEN YOU'RE NOT SO BUSY.
5-21

HI AND LOIS
BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


ARE THE TAXES READY TO GO?
THEY'RE ON THE TABLE, JUST MAKE SURE THE ENVELOPE HAS PLENTY OF STAMPS!
CHANCE BROWNE
STAMP STAMP STAMP STAMP
DID I DO A GOOD JOB?
4-16
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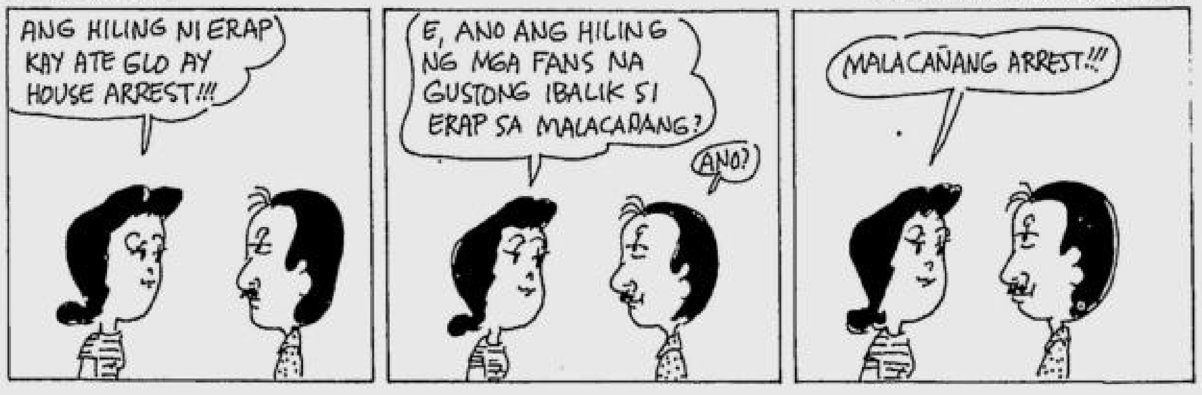
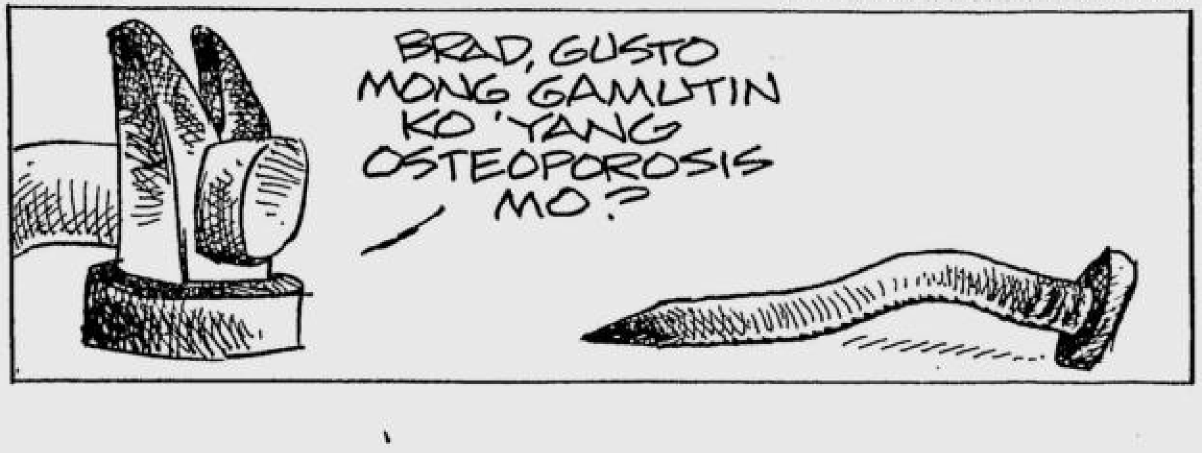
LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG HILING NI ERAP KAY ATE GLO AY HOUSE ARREST!!!
E, ANO ANG HILING NG MGA FANS NA GUSTONG IBALIK SI ERAP SA MALACAÑANG?
ANO?
MALACAÑANG ARREST!!!

TULDOK
BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


BRAD, GUSTO MONG GAMUTIN KO 'YANG OSTEOPOROSIS MO?

Spanish filmmakers . . .

(From page E3)

Germany, Israel, Iran, Australia, Canada and Japan, the Spanish cultural center does not hold an annual film festival in this country. And so with, surprisingly, the Big Three—China, US and Russia.

We just can't understand why. It's not budget consideration, we're sure. Do they presume then Filipinos are quite familiar with their cultures, anyway, that a filmfest would be superfluous?

So we have to make do with something like Buñuel's "The Phantom of Liberty" being screened at the Alliance Française de Manille. There goes our Spaniard, marching under the banner of France.

points of view

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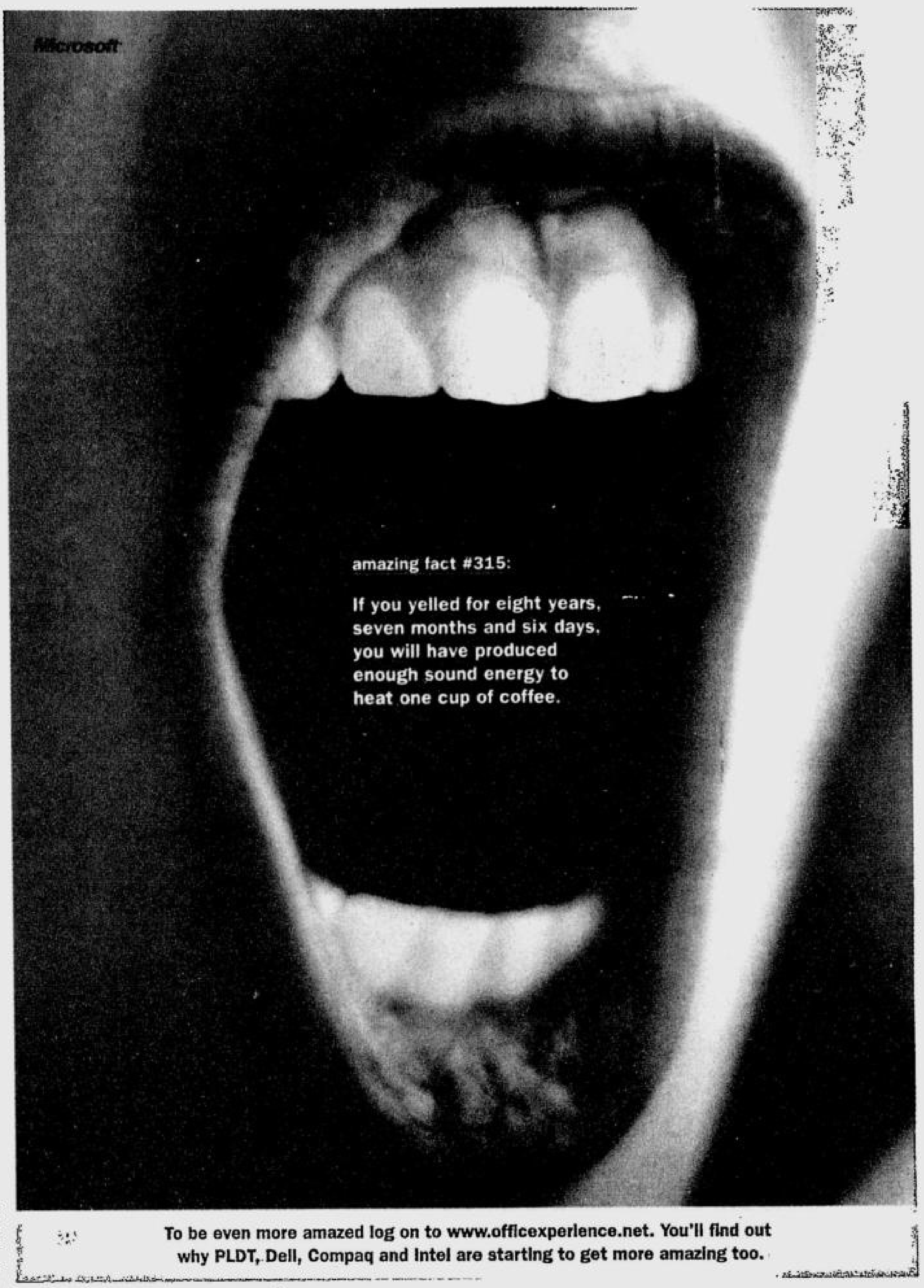
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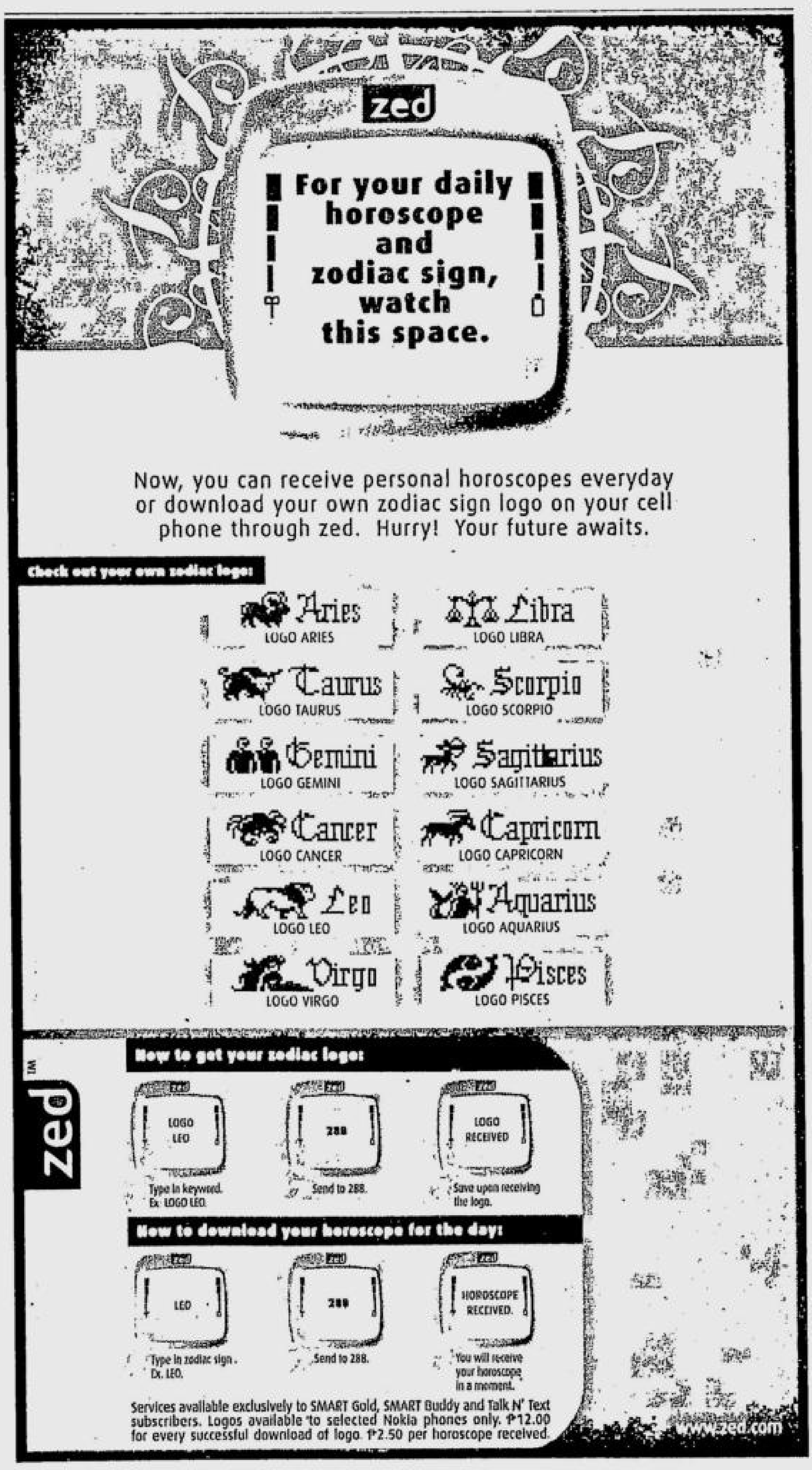
HOROSCOPE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Virgo LOGO VIRGO
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French filmfest opens at Shangri-La Plaza

A SCENE from "Salsa" by Joyce Sherman Bunuel

SHANGRI-LA Plaza Mall joins the French embassy in the celebration of this year's French Spring in Manila by hosting the 10-day 6th French Film Festival at the mall's Cinema 2.

The filmfest, which drew a crowd of approximately 18,000 last year, will open on June 8, 7 p.m., featuring "Le Gout Des Autres (It Takes All Kinds)" by Agnes Jaoui, a dramatic comedy which tells the story of tastes and colors of different characters and their milieu who would otherwise not have met since one does not disturb the status quo and cultural barriers without creating trouble.

Comedy and drama films dominate this year's lineup. Unlike last year's mixed edition of classics and contemporary, the 6th French Festival offers 10 current titles shown in Parisian theaters late last year.

A SCENE from "Taxi" by Gerard Pires

To be featured are "Merci Pour Le Chocolat (Nightcap)" by Claude Chabrol, "Taxi (Taxi)" by Gerard Pires, "La Fille Sur Le Pont (The Girl on the Bridge)" by Jean Becker, "Est-Quest (East-West)" by Regis Wargnier, "Asterix & Obelix Contre Cesar (Asterix and Obelix vs Caesar)" by Claude Zidi, "Code Inconnu (Code Unknown)" by Michael Haneke, "Salsa (Saliva)" by Joyce Sherman Bunuel, "Le Gout Des Autres (The Taste of Others)" by Agnes Jaoui, "Une Affairs de Gout (A Matter of Taste)" by Bernard Rapp and "Place Vendorne (Place Vendome)" by Nicole Garcia.

For the past few years, the French film festival has become a much-anticipated event, bringing to fore the counters great classics and contemporary films that portray the warm sensibilities, love, romance and light humor of the French. Beyond the appreciation of the artistic qualities of the featured films, the Filipino audience will surely find themselves amused by this year's selection.

Admission is free. Screening hours are 2 p.m., 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. daily. Call 635-2079.

A SCENE from "Le Gout de Autres" by Agnes Jaoui

Arts high school accepting applications

THE PHILIPPINE High School for the Arts (PHSA), the only secondary arts institution in the Philippines and Asia, is now accepting applications for full secondary education scholarship for school year 2002-2003. PHSA conducts yearly screening of applicants to search for gifted youths in the fields of creative writing, dance (ballet and folk), music (instrument and voice), visual arts and theater arts.

Interested applicants should be graduating Grade VI or VII Filipino students of above average intelligence, proficient in oral and written Filipino and English and not older than 14 years on June 1. 2002. S/He must not have any debilitating illness and must be willing to study in Mt. Makiling, Los Baños, Laguna, where the PHSA campus lies Upon graduation from PHSA, s/he must be determined to pursue a college degree in architecture. fine arts, music, dance, theater arts, journalism or any art related courses.

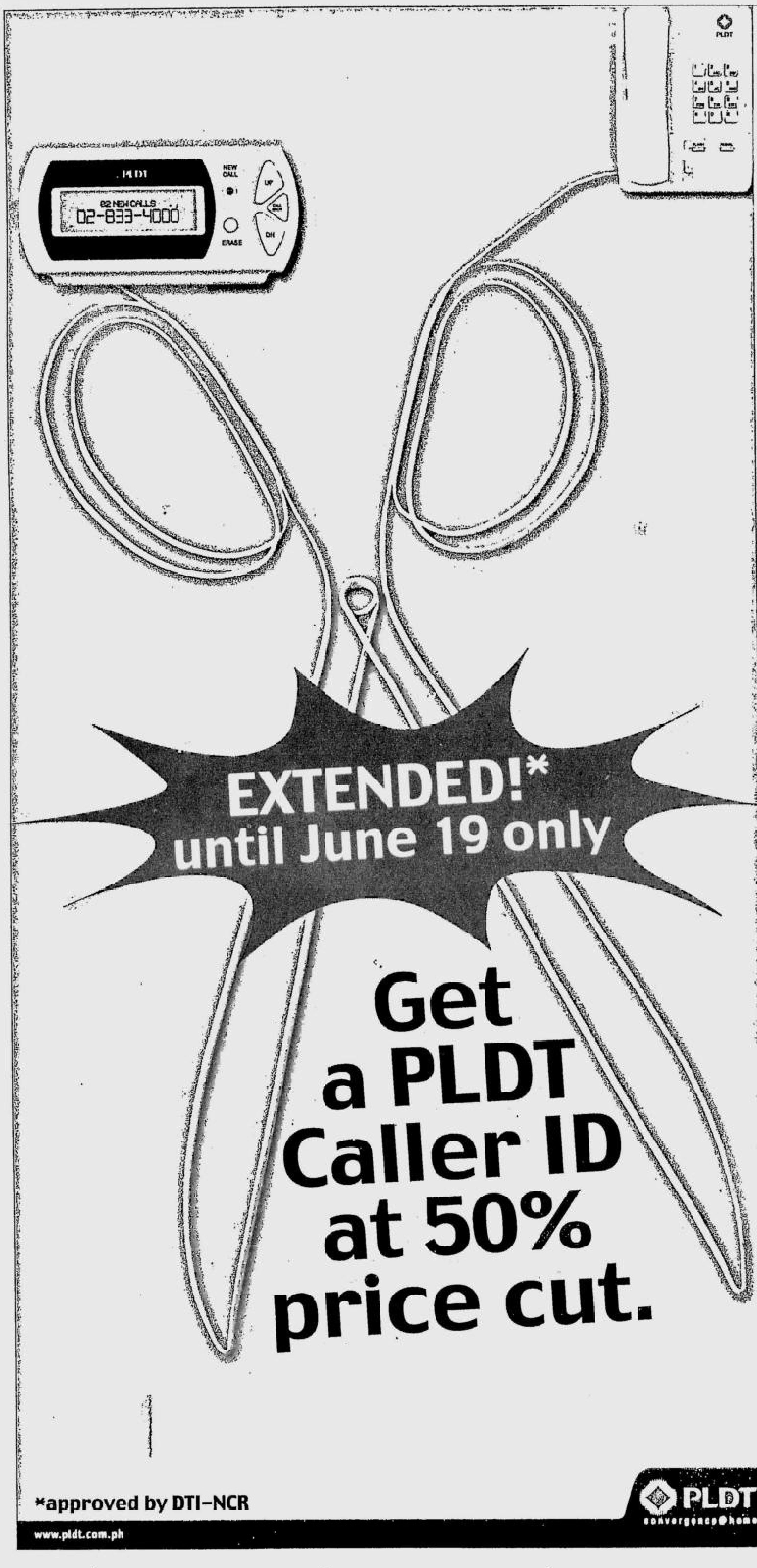
Those who pass the audition will be given advanced training in his/her chosen field of interest and will be awarded free tuition fee, free loan of books, free board and lodging and a monthly stipend. The scholarship is renewable every year for four consecutive school years upon satisfaction of academic and other requirements.

All applicants should submit the following: A fully accomplished application form; a photocopy of his birth certificate authenticated by the National Statistics Office; a one-page résumé citing accomplishments in the arts; a photocopy of his Grade V or Grade VI report card authenticated by the school principal; two 2x2" colored photos: certificate of good moral from the guidance counselor; recommendation from the art teacher and principal; and one self-addressed stamped envelope. Creative writing applicants should also submit a portfolio of not less than 10 samples of works (fiction, poetry or essay) in Filipino or English, typewritten, double-spaced on short bond paper and duly authenticated by the school principal or teacher-in-charge.

Application forms are available at PHSA, National Arts Center, Mt. Makiling, Los Baños, Laguna; PHSA Manila office at the Folk Arts Theater and at the following offices: All DECS regional and division offices; the NCCA at 633 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila; the Namcya office at Folk Arts Theater, CCP Complex, Pasay City; the CCP Performing Arts Department; selected provincial art councils and associations; Guidance and Counseling Center, UST Manila; and the Land Bank of the Philippines (all branches in Mindanao).

Deadline for submission of applications is on Sept. 30 for Mindanao and Visayas applicants, Aug. 31 for NCR and Luzon applicants and Oct. 15 for Southern Tagalog applicants. Send all applications to Fernando C. Josef, executive director, Philippine High School for the Arts, Folk Arts Theater, CCP Complex, Pasay City 1307.

Call Cecile Martinez at (049) 536-5973 or OJ Togan or Lea Aliangan at the PHSA Folk Arts Theater office at 832-3665/1120 local 112/106.



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'Potter' trailer makes for a magical invitation

BY RUEL S. DE VERA

ALL right, I admit it. I am one of those people who barge early into a movie house so I can catch the trailers. I am addicted to that show "Coming Attractions" on the E! network. After all, there's that Hollywood adage that a trailer is the only 30 seconds of the movie that actually works (that's true in many cases).

Now trailers have become an important tinseltown device, crucial to a movie's success. There are trailers stunning and inspiring (Michael Bay's "Pearl Harbor"), insipid and insulting ("Freddy Got Fingered") and those that simply tell too much about the story (Renny Harlin's "Driven").

But for the much-anticipated event movies, trailers become the very first taste of that motion picture. Remember when thousands of Netizens downloaded the "Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace" trailer from just about anywhere they could get it? Others lined up in the theaters just to see the trailer and left even before the featured movie actually ran. Now that's buzz.

With the possible exception of the first installment of Peter Jackson's "Lord of the Rings," the most awaited movie of the year is clearly Chris Columbus' "Harry Potter & the Sorcerer's Stone," due in November from Warner Bros. November is still many months away, but anyone can join in on the Harry Hoopla by taking in the first taste from the "Harry Potter" trailer.

> The film itself is still months away, but the trailer is a hopeful sign of things to come

Full bloom

All right, so it might be a little fanatical to be salivating over the trailer, but who cares? With Pottermania in full bloom the world over, it's a good a time as any to nit-pick obsessively about all things Harry Potter, especially its movie trailer. In any case, Harry Potter fanatics will experience a rush because the trailer, clocking in under two minutes, seems to get it right. In a fast montage that includes snippets of dialogue but with no narration, viewers are literally invited to the movie with a hail of letters for Harry, all invites for him to study at the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

Those familiar with the books from J.K. Rowling will marvel at the sight of the scarlet Hogwarts Express steaming through the countryside and will delight in seeing, maybe for the first time, the actors who will bring J.K.'s vision to life. Mop-topped Daniel Radcliff is perfect to play the part of

'POTTER'/ p.F3

THE TWO-MINUTE trailer (with moptopped Daniel Radcliff, above, in the title role) is enough to strike further Pottermania.

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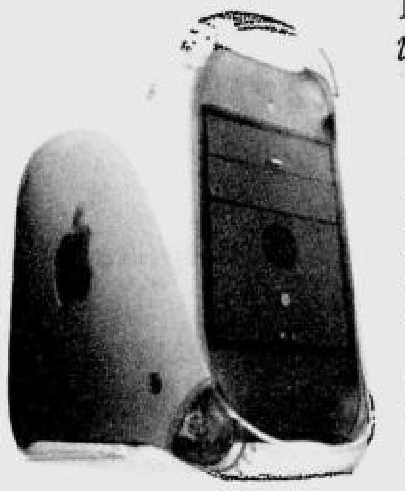

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FELLOWS AND PANELISTS. While literary grants loom over them, fellows pose for posterity. Seated, front row, from left, are Cathy Candano, Anna Leah Bundoc, Ana Baluyot, Daryll Delgado and Glenn Maboloc. Standing, second row, are Marc Funcion, Julius Villanueva, Paolo Eric Melendez, Genaro Cruz and Mitch Bayaua

TWO literary forums on the last day was opened to Baguio City's literature educators and lovers.

UST NATIONAL WRITERS WORKSHOP

A memory of words

BY PAOLO ERIC MELENDEZ

I WAS told earlier that preparations for the second UST National Writers' Workshop had been next to maddening. The UST Center for Creative Writing and Studies (UST-CCWS) had to juggle coordinating the fifth Philippine-British Literary Conference, publishing the third issue of Tomás and organizing the workshop, the first to be held outside the UST campus. This year's directors were Ophie Dimalanta, Cirilo Bautista and F. Sionil Jose.

The start of the week itself was less than auspicious. Having waited for one fellow who failed to show up, we ended up leaving Manila horribly behind schedule. Some fellows even joked that the sessions were to be held inside the chartered Saulog bus. Fortunately, we encountered no other hurdle after that. We made up for the lost time and arrived that early, rainy afternoon at the Paraiso Sa Quezon Hill Hotel. The hotel sits along the outskirts of Baguio City and features a confused yet cozy patchwork of architectural designs and interior motifs.

An informal orientation was held after dinner that night. The panelists and fellows were introduced to each other. Ralph Galan then itemized for the fellows the dreaded Workshop House Rules which, coupled with the workshop schedule, allowed us about as much freedom as 11 Labradors inside a mackerel can. Most, of course, went on to break the rules barely five minutes after they were read, breaking up for the first booze-up of the week.

"*Bukas na ninyo inumin 'yan,*" Mike Coroza said after seeing the bottle of gin carried by a fellow, "'*Pag may dahilan na kayong uminom.*" This, of course, did not help us in getting any calm sleep.

Quite cheery

However, the sessions themselves weren't as traumatic as expected. The panelists were quite cheery, in fact. Perhaps in a desire to veer away from the typecast dyspeptic-faced grump breathing twaddle down some poor fellow's face? Jokes were cracked almost as frequently as serious advice was given, and laughter often filled the session hall.

"There's no money in writing," F. Sionil Jose quipped in one session.

"*Ay oo! Ako? Nagbebenta ako ng shabu,*" agreed Cirilo Bautista.

Which is not to say that the panelists were never severe. One poem took up almost an entire session and evoked a scorching impromptu discourse by Mike Coroza and Becky Añonuevo on submissive and chauvinist literature. One story had us clutching our bellies in laughter, while in contrast some fellows squirmed as panelists often had cutthroat debates among themselves.

The informal consultations, the beer-soaked conversations with Ramil Gulle and Lito Zulueta, Frankie Jose's unexpected bottle of Chivas Regal and the odd trips outside the venue all helped break down any unnecessary walls between the fellows and the panelists.

"See how human we are?" Ophie Dimalanta remarked. The fellows could only smile in answer.

Well-represented

This year's was a well-represented batch of fellows, from UP Tacloban, Ateneo, De La Salle, PNU, PUP and UST. Baguio fellow Mitch Bayaua gave the other girls a semi-tour of the sites that the city boasts. Genaro Gojo Cruz by turns entranced and incensed us with stories about his experiences as a working student and writer from a school unfairly belittled by the literary community. Cathy Candano exposed the catches in joining and winning the Palanca Kabataan Essay. Glenn Maboloc invented a hilarious tie-in of every manuscript in the workshop. And Mark Funcion provided comic relief in even the most serious instances.

Some fellows were unfazed by the thrashing their manuscripts got. Ana Baluyut said she was used to it as a Linangan ng Imahen, Retorika at Anyo applicant, and Mervin Espina said he had gone through worse as a Thomasian Writers'

POET Cirilio Bautista with artist Bencab

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FEU honors Davide, Sto. Tomas

SUPREME Court Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr. was conferred the degree Doctor of Laws, honoria causa during Far Eastern University's 73rd commencement exercise, morning session, at the PICC. With him are (left photo) FEU president Dr. Edilberto C. de Jesus, FEU Board chair Lourdes Reyes-Montinola, Ms Davide and Commission on Higher Education Commissioner Dr. Mona D. Valisno. In his speech, Justice Davide dwelt on FEU's role in "Progressive Education for a Progressive Society."

In the afternoon session, Labor and Employment Secretary Patricia A. Sto. Tomas (right photo, second from right) was conferred Doctor of Humanities, honoria causa. From left, FEU president Dr. Edilberto C. de Jesus, FEU Board chair Lourdes Reyes-Montinola and CHED Commissioner Dr. Mona D. Valisno.

Secretary Sto. Tomas stressed the importance of "education as a lifelong undertaking whose end is to give meaning not just to our own existence but to those of others as well."

'Potter' . . .

(From page F1)

Harry, as is Rupert Grint as Ron. Winsome Emma Watson makes Hermione Granger a glowing presence. Beyond the top three, Columbus hits every mark with Robbie Coltrane doing a believably huge Rubeus Hagrid, Alan Rickman as a suitably scary Professor Snape, Maggie Smith as a self-assured Professor McGonagall and Richard Harris as a wizened Aldus Dumbledore.

There will be similar delightful if momentary flashes of recognition when Potter devotees catch glimpses of the new Hogwarts students entering the Great Hall, or even Harry strolling through Gringotts. Hmmm, who would have thought the goblins would all look like Ross Perot? But throughout it all, Radcliff and company make for a bracing sight because they really do look like Potter and friends brought to life.

Exciting bounce

Columbus, director of family fare such as "Mrs. Doubtfire" and "Stepmom," seems to have his own magic working as he infuses the scenes with an exciting bounce, everything from the Hogwarts classrooms and even a brief look at Quidditch. There is even a satisfying taste of John Williams' refreshingly light-hearted score for the movie. The trailer also tries to get in as much minutiae as it can with a look at a beautifully snowy Hedwig and a funny moment with the annoying Dursleys at home.

With its emphasis on visuals and scant voice over, the trailer will be fascinating but puzzling to the uninitiated viewer. There is, in fact, only one element that hints at the movie's main conceit, that Harry is the sole survivor of the attack by evil Lord Voldemort. But that pales with the overwhelming optimism that will strike any Harry Potter fan when s/he catches this trailer. Bearing in mind how the movies have not been very good at translating really good book, the producers of "Harry Potter" may have gotten it right, at least from the look of the trailer. Keep your spell-casting fingers crossed, in any case. All in all, the "Harry Potter & The Sorcerer's Stone" trailer is a showcase for fans of the books and is a truly enchanting look into Chris Columbus' movie. Now, the long wait for magical November truly begins.

A Memory . . .

(From page F2)

Guild (TWG) member. It was first time for the rest, however, and fellows Leah Bundoc and Julius Villanueva couldn't help but feel a little anxious when their manuscripts' turn came.

We were all itching to go out and around by the second day, but couldn't due to the hectic sessions schedule. We would leave the hotel during whatever free time we could salvage, going sometimes with a panelist or two to Session Road, Mine's View and Burnham Park, this modestly elegant jazz bar in Nevada Square that we discovered on the last night, and the near-legendary *ukay-ukay*.

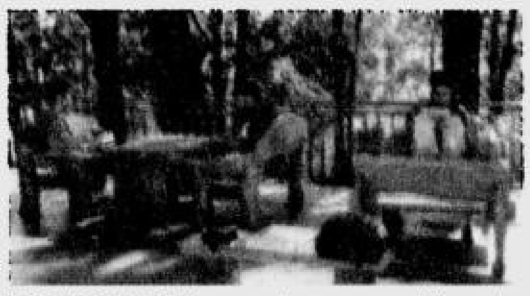
Quite a number of guests dropped by during the week, among them Neil Garcia from UP, John Iremil Teodoro from Leyte, artist Bencab, editors from UST's official student publication The Varsitarian and members of the Junior TWG.

Literary forums

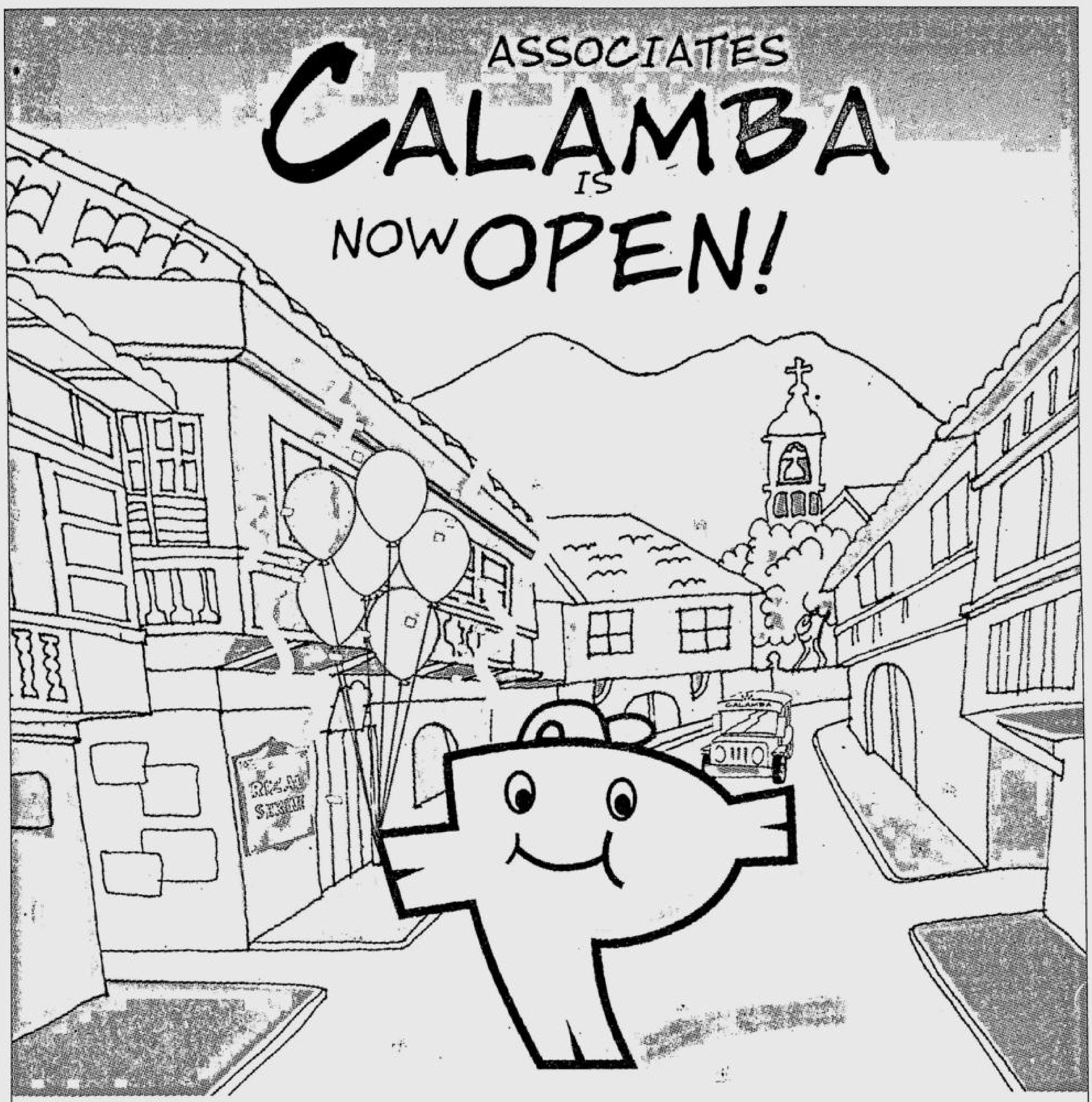
Two "USTingan" roundtable discussions on literary issues were held on the last day. The two concerns tackled were "New Currents in Teaching Literature" and "Technique, Craftsmanship and Idealism in Philippine Literary Writing." Butch Macasantos and other members of the Baguio literary academe attended the sessions, which were concluded by a book sale by the UST Publishing House.

We held our farewell dinner at the Café Legarda. Also highlighting that night's activity was the launching of the third issue of Tomás, the literary journal of the UST-CCWS. Ophie Dimalanta gave the first copy to Fr. John Funelas, O.P., the young dean of the UST Ecclesiastical Faculty of Philosophy and regent of the UST High School and adviser of the Junior-TWG. Tomás 3 contributors present that evening afterwards read their compositions. Erli Mendoza and Mike Coroza read the original Pampango

A MEMORY/ p.F8



WORKSHOP fellows review manuscripts under the pine trees.



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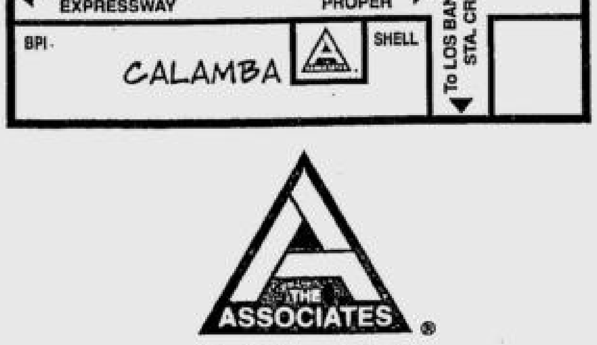
- At least 3 years at residence
- At least 3 years at current job
- At least 23 years old

** Subject to credit approval. For more information, please visit or call our branch office.*

CALAMBA BRANCH ADDRESS:
G/F J. Alcasid Business Center
National Highway, Brgy. Real,
Calamba, Laguna
Tel. No.: (049) 545-9021



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get THE Best Deals with Citibank Credit Cards

MESSAGES

THREE years ago, we were looking to launch a credit card that would address the lifestyle needs of the Filipino motorist. Our natural choice for a partner was Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., then and now, the country's leading oil company.

That partnership has been a success in more ways than one. We are very happy to be working with a firm that shares our strong commitment to quality and service excellence. Back then, while we at Citibank were developing the credit card, Pilipinas Shell generously shared their market insights—resulting in a winning product. This is just one example of the many synergies Citibank enjoys from our partnership with Shell.

Today, the Shell Citibank MasterCard is the leading credit card in its category—and its membership continues to grow. We attribute this to its many innovative features, in particular rewarding Filipino motorists with fuel rebates for all their card spending.

Now, we bring to you another product of the Citibank and Pilipinas Shell partnership—the Shell Citibank Gold MasterCard. With superior motoring privileges, the Shell Citibank Gold MasterCard will give the Filipino motorist the recognition he deserves—on and off the road.

NINA AGUAS
Country Business Manager
Citibank, N.A.

MARCH 1998 marked the synergy between two corporate leaders when Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation and Citibank, N.A. jointly launched the Shell-Citibank MasterCard.

We are pleased to have Citibank as our partner in this endeavor because it understands, the way Shell does, the value and commitment in providing high quality, top performance and excellent service to customers.

Loyalty from Shell and Citibank customers helped us succeed in our joint venture. After three years of successful partnership, the Shell-Citibank MasterCard is recognized today as the leading co-branded credit card in its category with its innovative features that are geared toward rewarding Filipino motorists with fuel rebates and motoring-related benefits.

Shell and Citibank continue to seek ways to further serve customers as membership and usage of the Shell-Citibank MasterCard expanded.

In our effort to provide our customers with the ultimate motorist credit card, Shell and Citibank take another step further by offering a superior credit card specially designed for the sophisticated motorist—the Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard.

With the Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard, our valued customers will move on to enjoy more motoring benefits delivered through the top-of-the-line service they truly deserve.

OSCAR S. REYES
President
Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation

At three, Silver turns to Gold

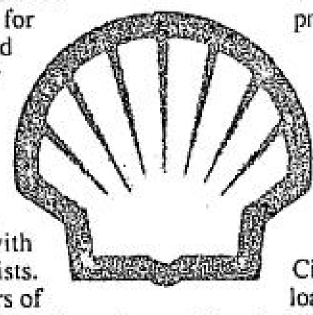
BY ARIES B. ESPINOSA

QUICK, all you cell-toting professionals reading this. Bring out your phones and put it on calculator mode. What is two percent of the prevailing unleaded gasoline prices per liter? If a liter of Formula Shell Super Unleaded goes at P18, then you get 36 cents, right? How about a liter of Shell Velocity? Probably, if that goes at P19, you get 38 cents.

What does this all mean? Well, if you were a Shell-Citibank MasterCard cardholder since it was launched in March 1998 and if you have had two-percent rebates on your every fuel purchase using your card in all those three years, how much would you have actually saved?

Bring out your cellphones again. Let's say you consumed 10 liters of fuel a day for five days a week. That would be 50 liters a week. 50 liters multiplied by 52 weeks would be 2,600 liters a year. Multiply that by three years and your car has actually consumed 7,800 liters for your travels alone.

Let's put the average price of Shell's Super Unleaded over the past three years at P15. That means you would have shelled out at least P117,000 for your gas alone. Now, what is two percent of P117,000? That's P2,340. Today, that would be three extra full tanks. That would take you around Luzon and get you back in your garage with plenty to spare.



And that's just your rebates for gas. How about the 0.5-percent rebates you get for your non-fuel purchases from Shell and other accredited establishments for the past three years?

We'll leave the computing to you. Ultimately, however, this is the objective the two leading organizations in the credit card and petroleum industries are hoping to achieve with today's young, ultra-mobile motorists. Little by little, day by day, cardholders of the Shell-Citibank MasterCard maximize the value of their fuel and non-fuel purchases and at the same time get rewarded with cash rebates which can be used to buy more fuel, or even pay more bills.

Partnership attracts value-added service

Ramon L.V. Del Rosario, product manager, cards category marketing of Citibank, N.A. Global Consumer Banking, says that for the past three years the focus of the partnership has been to seek ways to make Shell-Citibank MasterCard stand out from other credit cards.

"The Shell-Citibank MasterCard was made specifically for you to earn as much savings as you can on Shell fuel purchases. Instead of rewards, we offered cash rebates, which can be redeemed versus Shell fuel purchases," Del Rosario explains. "The beauty of these rebates is that they continue to accumulate, and there's no limit to the number of rebates they can earn."

THE SHELL-CITIBANK TEAM. From left: Mon del Rosario, product manager, Cards Marketing, Citibank; Sonya Perez-Bernas, Cards Marketing AVP, Citibank; Sammy de Guzman, Metro Manila retail district manager, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp.; Roel Cruz, Loyalty Programs-Private Motorists Head, Brand and Communications Dept., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp.

He adds, "on top of that, the Shell-Citibank MasterCard being a motorist card, we really looked towards providing the best quality service. We put together a 24-hour motorists' customer service center. We found this in Shell's partnership with Wheelers Club. Our cardholders can call Wheelers Club on a 24-by-7 basis."

J. Roel C. Cruz, head of Shell's loyalty program for private motorists, adds that a Wheelers Club service portfolio offers more than just towing. "This kind of roadside assistance can range from a tire change to battery recharge to towing within Metro Manila and Metro Cebu at no charge to Shell-Citibank MasterCard cardholders."

To top these all off, The Shell-Citibank MasterCard is, at its core, a fully loaded Citibank credit card. "Cardholders still enjoy high credit lines. The card is accepted in over 14 million stores all over the world. The Paylite Installment Plan is also featured in this card, as well," Del Rosario stresses.

The Shell-Citibank MasterCard has also been holding annual "double-your-rebates" promos, which essentially increased the rebates enjoyed by cardholders (See related story). For Shell-Citibank MasterCard applicants who get approved, they even receive a free welcome gift: the Ferrari F50 Model Car.

Silver spawns Gold

Now, three years and over 60,000 cards later, the tested partnership of Shell and Citibank presents the Gold variant of the Shell-Citibank MasterCard. Now, not only do the yuppies and car enthusiasts get all the fun with their Shell-Citibank MasterCard, the upscale and "just-a-wee-bit-older" higher echelon businessmen belonging to the upper A and B markets can get their share of fast-paced savings.

The Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard offers the same unique features of the Shell-Citibank MasterCard, but with more "rev" and "vroom" to it.

"The Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard will still continue to offer the same rebates, but what we're trying to offer is the VIP treatment you get on the road," explains Del Rosario.

Cruz reveals there would be "enhancements" in terms of the motoring-related features offered for Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard cardholders. Just a few of the juicy offers are the free vehicular registration and free basic car check up on arrangement with Wheelers Club.

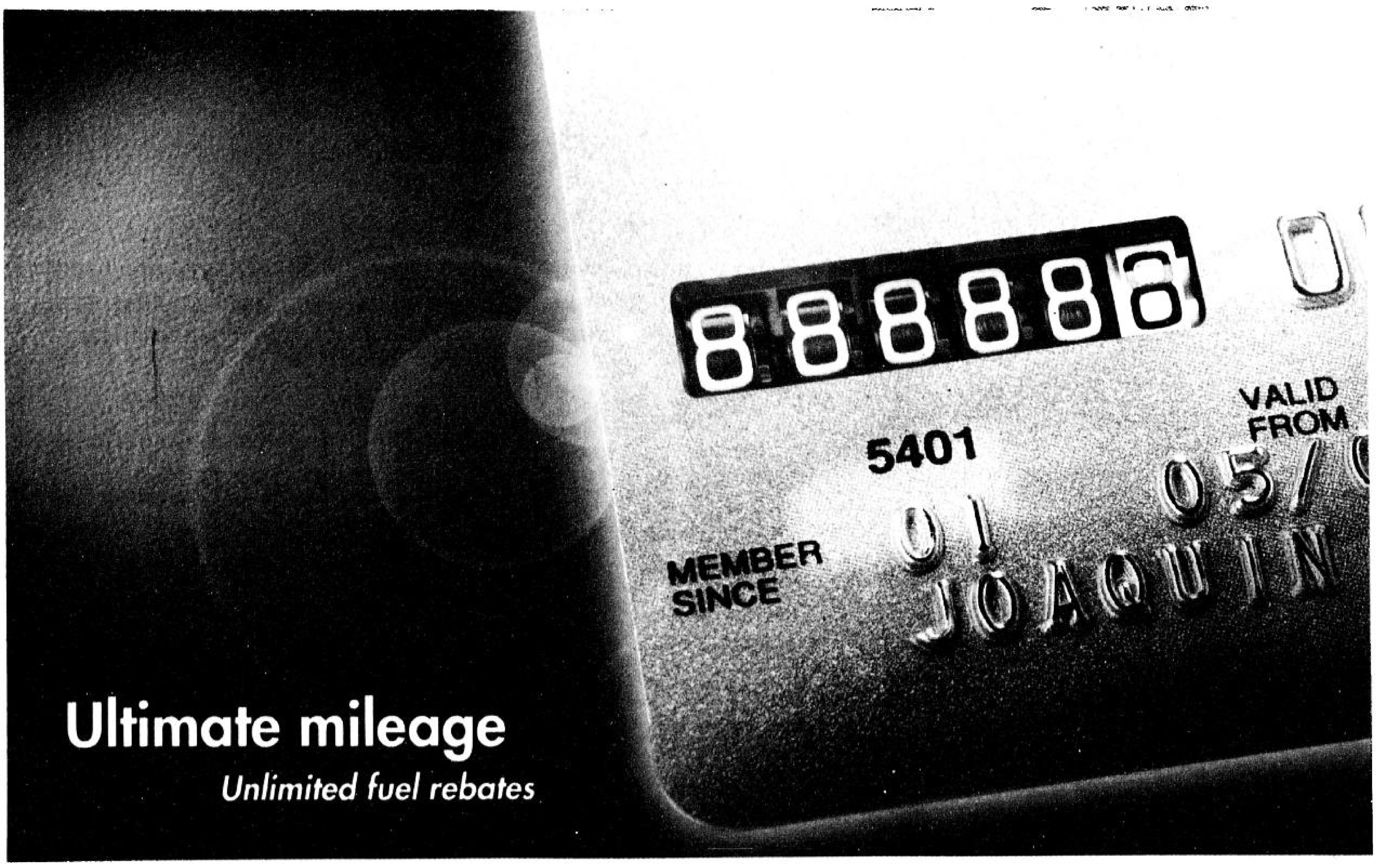
"All the cardholder needs to do is to call up the number listed at the card, and someone will go over to your home or office and get the stencils of your vehicle. He will go to the LTO office and do the registration himself. All of these would be free of charge. All you need to pay is the actual registration fee for the vehicle. In the same sense, the cardholder need not give cash. He can actually charge the registration fee through the Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard. It's completely hassle-free."

Del Rosario adds that the Shell-Citibank Gold

AT THREE/ F5

How Rod called his way out of a fix

(See article on page F6)



get THE Best Deals with Citibank Credit Cards

MESSAGES

DRIVEN to continue bringing new financial products and services that are tailor-fit to our customers—we proudly introduce the Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard.

It is the credit card for the Filipino motorist with sophisticated needs. Confident and successful, driving the car of his dreams, he deserves to carry the Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard.

We offer higher spending limits, free round-the-clock roadside assistance and towing service for as long as the cardholder is a passenger in the vehicle, free vehicular registration service, the best deals on automobile coverage, and of course, fuel rebates on all purchases. Plus, the exclusive perks befitting all Citibank Gold Cardholders in the Philippines and abroad.

Bring home the Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard today and feel the rush of the Gold difference.

MARIPI JALANDONI
Customer Franchise Director
Citibank, N.A.

THE PARTNERSHIP of two world-class leaders can only produce world-class products worthy of global recognition. Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation with its partner Citibank, N.A. introduces the Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard to provide you with exclusive privileges and high-value services to let you enjoy the most out of your V.I.P. motoring experience.

With a credit card to accelerate your financial convenience and driving luxury, the Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard is definitely the most exclusive motorist's card ever. You can feel the power of its benefits and exclusive privileges as you pleasure your way to the finish line.

Your total satisfaction is our number one priority. Being the most comprehensive and exclusive motorist credit card, the Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard entitles you to supreme features and benefits, such as unlimited fuel rebates, free 24-hour towing services and roadside assistance, free vehicular registration service, and the best deals on full auto coverage.

It is with this very exciting product that we look forward to the opportunity to serve our customers even better.

CESAR G. ROMERO
Vice President - Retail
Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation

PROMOS GALORE

Man, I see double. Step on it!

THE NEXT time you see lots and lots of cars queuing up at Shell service stations, it might not be just because of another impending oil price hike deadline these motorists are trying to beat. More likely, it's filling season again for many a Shell-Citibank MasterCard cardholder.

The reason is simple enough. Since the Shell-Citibank MasterCard already offers a two-percent rebate on all Shell fuel purchases all year round, it found enough reason to throw in a promo during a specified limited time to double the rebates to four percent. In other words, what used to give you back P2 for every P100 spent on all Shell fuels now gives back P4. This isn't small change when you're speaking of hundreds of liters in the course of a week.

Ramon L.V. Del Rosario of Citibank, N.A. Global Consumer Banking says that this promo is part of varying tactical offers that is ultimately aimed for cardholders "to earn as much savings as possible on Shell fuel purchases."

Shell-Citibank MasterCard is giving ample time for everyone to earn more fuel even while they gas up. The "Double Your Rebates" promo period started April 20 and ends July 20, 2001.

For every approved application within this period, the new cardholder even gets a free Ferrari model car to boot—a Collezione-type F50. Hey, who doesn't want a Ferrari in the house, even if it's just a scaled down model (1:18) and, at P900, is 0.001 percent of the price tag of the real thing? We'd choose that over a Tamiya anytime.

Newly approved Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard cardholders, in addition, get two free full tanks. This promo runs from June 15 to August 15, 2001 only. So applicants, stop fidgeting and start filling up those forms and submit no later than August 15.

Oh, and don't forget. All year round, The Shell-Citibank MasterCard Gold and Classic Cards offer 0.5-percent rebates on purchases of all Shell non-fuel products such as motor oils, tires, batteries, services and food items. This also applies for other card purchases like dining, groceries and shopping here and abroad.

Keep holding on to your Shell-Citibank MasterCard. The barrels of fuel will just keep rolling your way, and you have in your hands what it takes to get the most out of them.

At three, Silver . . .

(From page F4)

MasterCard maintains the regular 24-7 roadside assistance and free towing service.

"Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard cardholders also enjoy credit limits of up to P625,000. They now become part of the Citibank Gold exclusives program wherein cardholders get exclusive discounts and benefits in over 180 establishments nationwide. They will have access to Northwest lounges not only in the Philippines but also in the airports around the world. We're talking about hotel and dining benefits, resorts, health and beauty, worldwide immediate assistance, and everything that comes with being a Citibank Gold cardholder," he enthuses.

The Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard continues to be fully loaded, of course, with the PayLite installment plan, the FastLink payment option, and access to online banking with CitiDirect.

The bonuses keep on coming. Del Rosario says Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard cardholders even get the best deals on 100-percent comprehensive auto insurance packages, courtesy of Citicorp Financial Services Brokerage, Inc.

"All cardholders need to do is pay for own damage and theft, and everything else comes free. And just to make it even easier, they have the option to amortize this in 12 monthly installments."

Cruz even throws in a little come-on for interested applicants to the Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard. "For those who get approved, a welcome gift awaits them. We will be giving these new Gold Cardholders two free full tanks worth P1,400."

Remember the three full tanks we've saved earlier? Now we have two more. That's enough to include Visayas in our itinerary. Great.

Wait, there's more. Samuel G. De Guzman, Shell Retail Business manager in Metro Manila, says the initial benefits incorporated in the Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard are just "for starters, essentially to whet the appetites of motorists."

"Because of the powerful tie-up between Shell and Citibank, there are a lot of other things we are looking at in terms of providing additional value," he discloses. "We have a full range of products and services available in Shell service stations. Pretty soon, more benefits to the cardholders will be provided. Part of the plan is we will be covering nearly all of the Shell stations in the Philippines. At the moment, Shell has a little over a thousand stations. The Shell-Citibank MasterCard is at present accredited in nearly 200 stations, mostly in Metro Manila, Metro Cebu and Davao. There are ongoing plans to accredit the rest of the network to make it more convenient. I think we are ready to offer them more things."

Hey, so now include Mindanao in the plan, too. In fact, Shell and Citibank are cooking up just the trip to fit the adventurous, ultra-mobile taste of the Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard market—a land adventure tour where the only plastic you need is, you guessed it right, the Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard.

But that's another story. Hop in and read the next pages and discover how much more loaded a two-by-three-inch co-branded credit card can be.

The card that goes where the crowds are

USING the tri-media isn't everything. Ask Benjie Oliva, Citibank sales director, and he'd definitely agree.

As Benjie oversees the deployment of agents to strategic areas in and around Metro Manila, he explains one of the most crucial strategies utilized in making the Shell-Citibank MasterCard truly accessible to its target markets.

"Our strategy is simple. We will be where the customers are." That means, Shell-Citibank MasterCard agents set up actual booths in Shell service stations, or agents themselves make the rounds of the malls and supermarkets and offer on-the-spot application form fill-ups and fliers to make potential customers more familiar with the product.

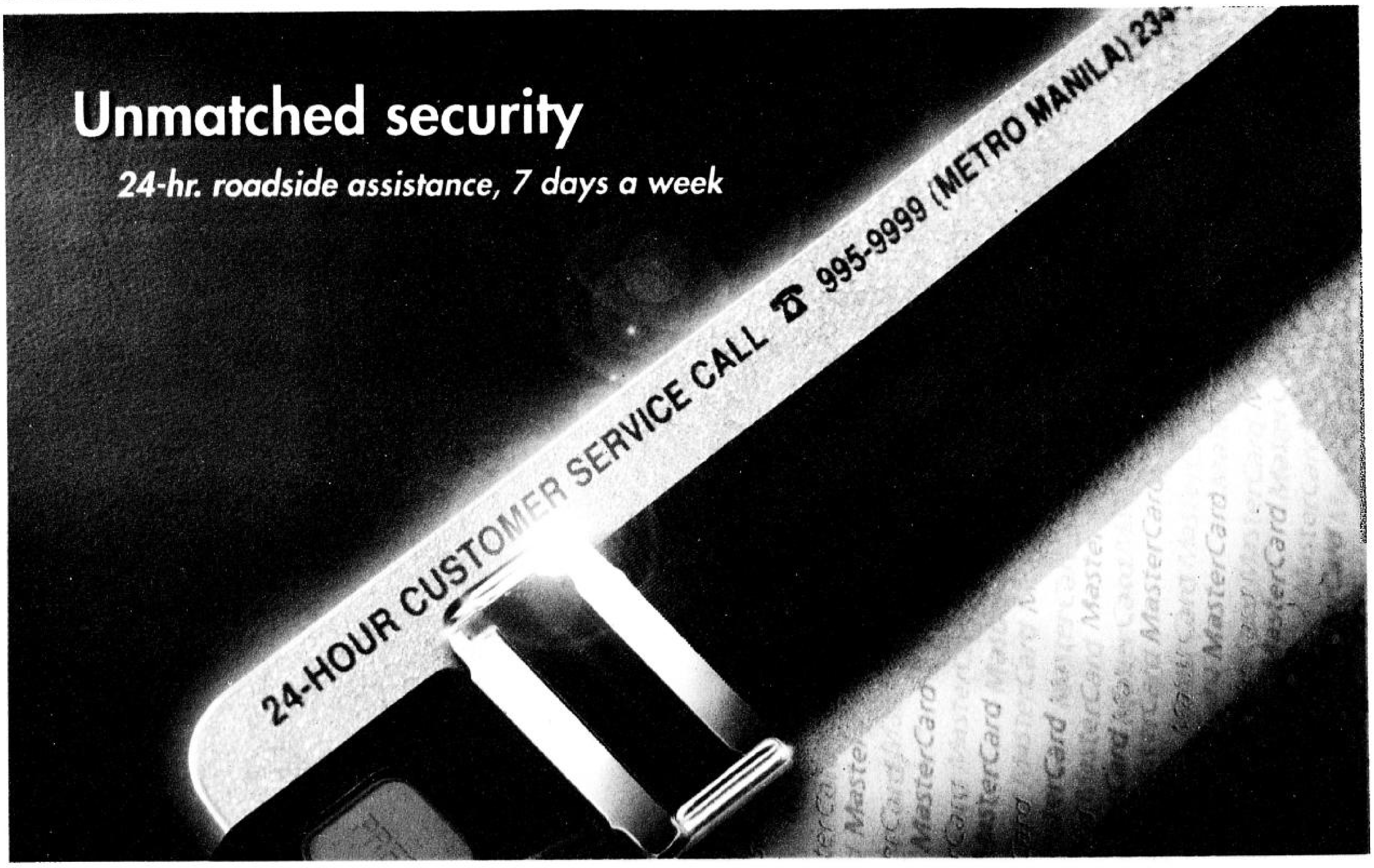
"We deploy in areas with high human traffic, and complement that with highly visible marketing promotions that really entice non-members to join," Benjie discloses.

Combined with an aggressive tri-media campaign, this all-bases-covered approach to marketing an already highly saleable product has resulted in huge successes. "We are probably the most successful co-branded card in Asia today," Benjie observes.

The efforts of partners Shell and Citibank to keep their cardmembers satisfied and constantly pleasantly surprised are notable, as well.

The annual "Double-Your-Rebates" promo, for example, has been a most looked-forward-to event for Shell-Citibank MasterCard cardholders. "For the past three years we've been holding this promo, there has been at least a 30-percent increase in fuel volumes for the duration of the promo," Benjie reveals.

Aside from the doubled fuel rebates, the Shell-Citibank MasterCard has also been offering 0.5-percent on all other Shell non-fuel purchases and purchases from all other establishments. It also had successfully held a promo involving the Tollways E-Pass and the F1 Malaysian Grand Prix.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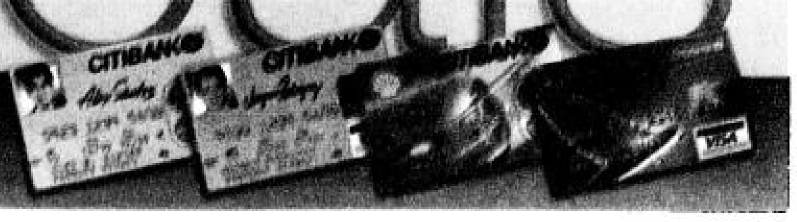


A pleasant surprise in unexpected situations

'They towed my car, and when I was about to pay them for their services, they said it was all for free, courtesy of the Shell-Citibank MasterCard'

IT WAS a scene straight from a B-rated horror movie.

Here was a dapper, young urban professional driving a vintage car in the middle of the night in a not-so-populated suburban road beside a deep river. Suddenly, the old engine conks out. There's not a single soul in sight to come to his aid. In complete darkness, the frantic young man fumbles in his car, searching for that redeeming object that would bail him out of this fix. Then, the zombies tap on his window…

Cut!

Okay. There were no zombies this time. But ABC 5 newscaster Rod Nepomuceno was trapped in exactly the same surreal situation sometime ago. The setting was just under the Guadalupe Bridge in Mandaluyong, within a not-so-pleasant neighborhood at midnight—beside the Pasig River.

"I found myself in a quandary. It was Saturday night. I didn't know what to do. I called the house but no one was there," Rod recalls.

Then, out of instinct, Rod pulled his wallet out and shuffled through his cards. He saw his Shell-Citibank MasterCard and flipped the card and read the small prints at the back.

ROD NEPOMUCENO, a satisfied Shell-Citibank MasterCard cardholder

"I read the 24-hour roadside assistance number of Wheelers Club. So, I called the number, gave my Shell-Citibank card number, and people from Wheelers Club were there at the scene in 25 minutes. They towed my car, and when I was about to pay them for their services, they said it was all for free, courtesy of the Shell-Citibank MasterCard."

Rod attests that he was not an emotional man. "I'm not the type who's emotional over customer service. For me, it's all business. Any company providing customer service is only expected to deliver. But because I did not expect that the Shell-Citibank MasterCard had a 24-hour roadside assistance, it was an added bonus."

To show his appreciation for such value-added service, Rod called up Shell-Citibank MasterCard's customer service hotline that same night and complimented the service.

"This feature, for me who goes around a lot in a car (Rod averages 50-70 kms a day), is a very practical thing which I don't see in any other card."

Very practical, indeed. Since his first stall-out, Rod has experienced two more with his vintage car. In all those occasions, Rod availed of the Shell-Citibank MasterCard's roadside assistance.

From just a card seen as a way to get free rebates on every Shell fuel and product purchase, Rod now sees his trusted Shell-Citibank MasterCard in a broader light. And with the launch of the Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard, Rod qualifies for an upgrade to Gold. This means he enjoys higher credit card limits, more of the Shell fuel rebates, and more value-added motoring services.

"The upgrade is great, especially when I heard that the Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard will also be having tie-ups with motor shops where I can get discounts, and even renew my car registration and have it delivered to my house for free. This card is really applicable for car enthusiasts who are very conscious of gas budgets and car parts," Rod enthuses.

Rod has since sold his vintage car and bought a brand new car. But no matter what car he drives, and under any conditions, everything he needs as a motorist is tucked safely in his wallet, ready to be called into service again.

Go adventure tripping on four wheels and a card

HAVE you ever stepped down from your SUV at the northernmost tip of Luzon and gazed out at the open expanse of the Pacific Sea, your sights trained on the direction of Batanes Islands and Taiwan? Have you ever tested your sports coupe's maneuverability on the rolling mountain trails of Benguet? Have you ever run circles around restful Mayon on your sporty AUV?

These are the questions seemingly more suited to foreign tourists on an extended joyride than urban jungle dwellers like us who consider vacations, let alone daring bring-your-own-vehicle expeditions, limited to the two-month window we call summer.

Not so, say the people at the Shell-Citibank MasterCard. Sonya Bernas, Citibank's AVP for Cards Marketing, insists that the Philippines belongs, first and foremost, to its people. The beauty of the countryside, therefore, should be experienced by every Filipino first before we even start dreaming of enjoying Hong Kong, Australia, or even the United States.

And the best way to anywhere in the country? Your way, of course. With you in control of your pace, and your hands at the wheel.

"The Philippines is such a beautiful country. We should start going out, drive our cars, appreciate our own popular and unspoiled destinations."

She observes that a number of factors are contributing to the growth of local tourism. The increase in the value of the dollar against the peso has made foreign travel more expensive. The increased environmental awareness brought about by the tri-media, especially by cable TV programs in Discovery Channel, National Geographic and the "Survivor" series, has brought about a national consciousness in favor of local travel.

Select
Food Store
FROM LEFT: Mon del Rosario, product manager, Cards Marketing, Citibank; Roel Cruz, Loyalty Programs-Private Motorists head, Brand and Communications Dept., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp.; Ephraim Caedo, Shell dealer, SLT Shell Service Station; Sonya Perez-Bernas, Cards Marketing AVP, Citibank; Gigi Rodriguez, Marketing Services AVP, Citibank.

Sonya continued, "We've figured, we're looking at individuals who like going out of town driving their own vehicles. How do we help them?"

The answer was simple. Show them the way and the destination, and provide the means to make the travel as easy and worry-free as possible.

"Now, what we're doing is actually drawing up a map and telling them exactly where to go,"

GO ADVENTURE/ F7

Superior performance
Recognized in over 14 million establishments worldwide

get THE Best Deals with Citibank Credit Cards

Go adventure tripping on four wheels and a card

(From page F6)

Sonya enthuses.

She says her group has started the wheel rolling with a Northern Luzon adventure tour, which happened just this May 28-30 (The details of which will be published soon in this paper).

"Then we'll go off on a Southern Luzon adventure tour, then a Mindoro Tour, or a Visayas Tour."

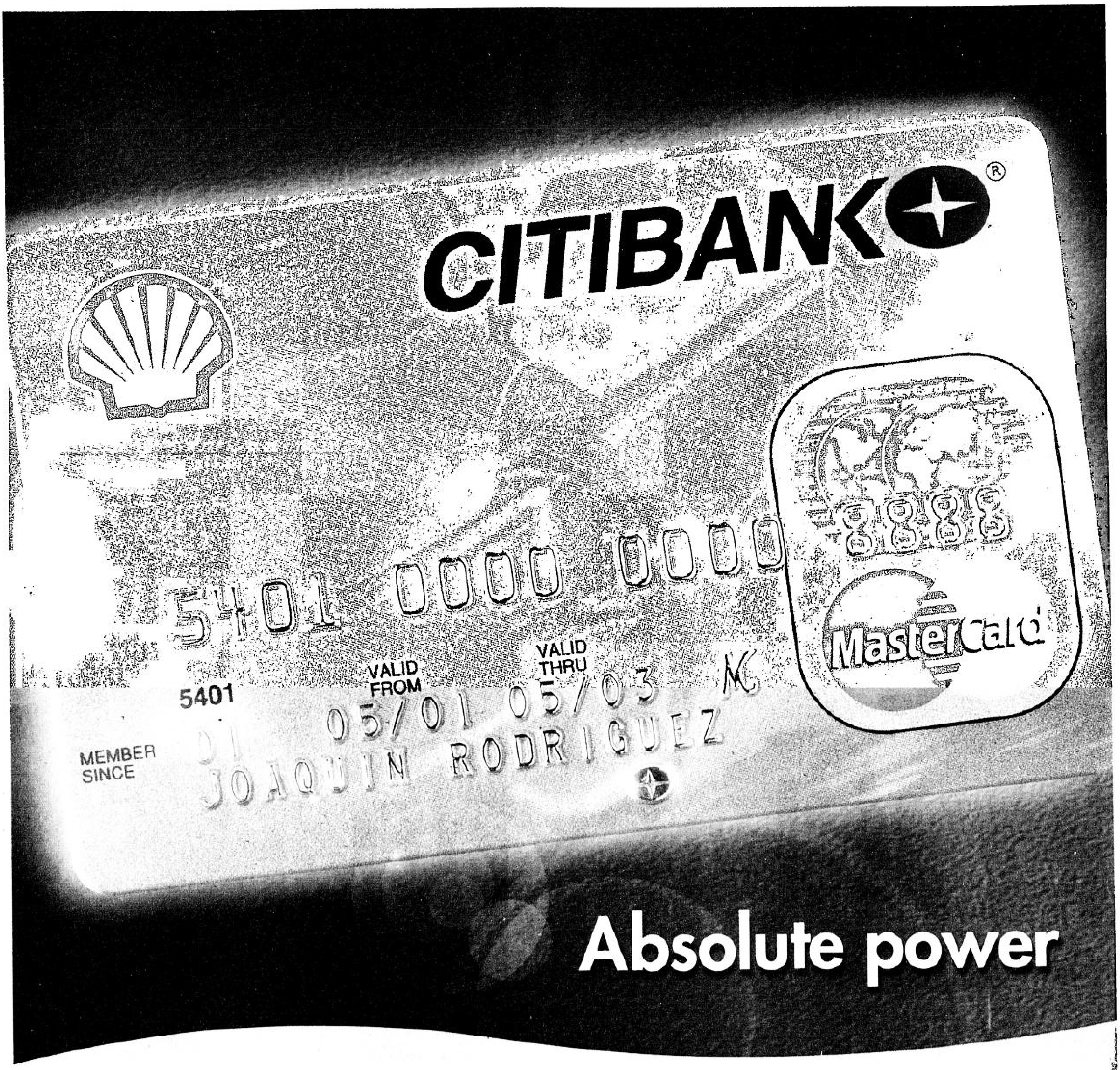
In each expedition, Sonya stresses, the trip shall point to the fact that the Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard makes travel a lot easier.

"As you gas up along the trip at Shell service stations, we will be giving back a lot as well because of the rebates. You can also use the Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard at Select stores and hotel payments and earn rebates, too," she enumerates.

"We're giving our Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard cardholders added value by helping them plan their out-of-town trips," Sonya stresses.

"The Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard is the urban professional's ticket to adventure." Indeed, and the main feature in this show is not a big-budgeted Western flick. This time, it's just in our backyards waiting all this time to get noticed.

The Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard Adventure series is being done in cooperation with Shell Velocity and Ford Motor Philippines, Inc.



The *Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard.* The most exclusive motorist's card ever!

The new **Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard** has all the features in high gear! Get Ultimate Mileage with unlimited fuel rebates and the Unmatched Security of 24 x 7 roadside assistance. Assuring you of Superior Performance in over 14 million establishments worldwide. Plus, you get free towing service, free vehicular registration service, the best deals on comprehensive auto insurance and Citibank Gold Exclusives Discounts and Privileges to keep you ahead of the rest: With the Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard, the road is yours!

Available in Classic and Gold

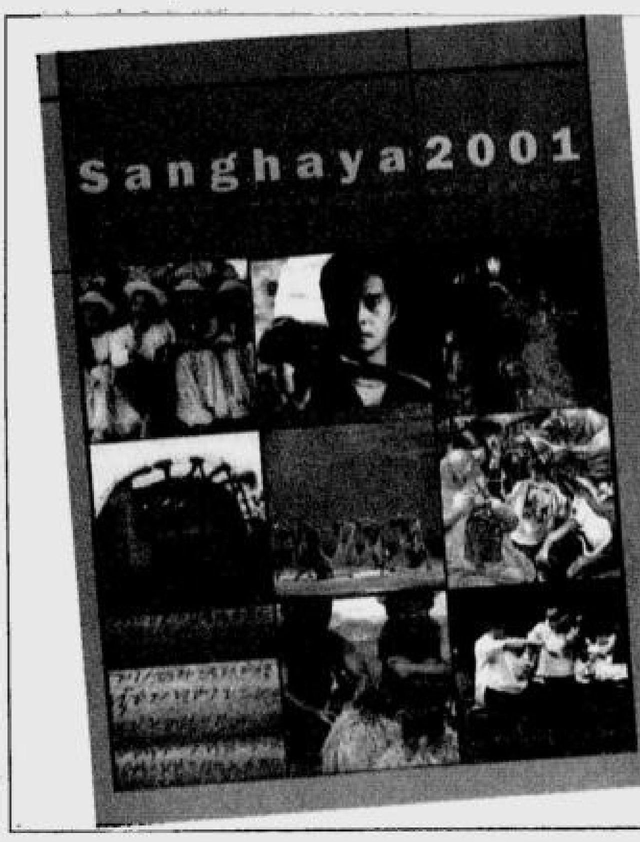
Apply now and get 2 Free Full Tanks upon approval of your application!*

Call our 24-Hour CitiPhone at 995-9999 in Metro Manila and 234-9999 in Metro Cebu or 1-800-10-995-999 from other provinces or visit our website at www.citibank.com.

* Promo is valid for approved Gold Principal applications. Offer good until August 15, 2001.

CITIBANK

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1454, Series of 2001



'Sanghaya,' 2000 arts and culture yearbook, now out

THE "MISS Saigon" controversy, the jai alai demolition, Raymond Red winning Cannes—everybody knows these are some of the cultural controversies and highlights of 2000. But try asking someone about other notable but low-profile plays, films or books that came out in 2000, good and bad, is another matter altogether.

Enter "Sanghaya: The Philippine Arts and Culture Yearbook 2001." Spearheaded and edited by Ramon Magsaysay awardee for Literature Bienvenido Lumbera, "Sanghaya" aims to perform the monumental task of recording and assessing the year's artistic and cultural life in a single volume.

Aside from a 12-month chronicle of events, short sketches, updated directories and other cultural data, the yearbook features full-length articles by experts who evaluate the developments in their various fields. Contributors include Paulo Alcazaren (architecture), Joselito Zulueta (cinema), Basilio Esteban Villaruz (dance), Cora Llamas (dramatic arts), Bienvenido Lumbera (literature), Alice Guillermo (visual arts), Eric Caruncho (popular music), Luis Teodoro (mass media), Florentino Hornedo (oral literature), Karina Bolasco (publishing), Jesus Peralta (cultural communities) and many others.

An invaluable sourcebook to students, schools, artists, cultural workers and patrons of the arts, the NCCA-funded publication is now available. Call Aimee Apostol at 527-2192 local 612 to 615.

F. Sionil Jose to speak before Chinese-Filipino leaders

THE FEDERATION of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc. (FFCII) will lead the Chinese-Filipino celebration of the 103rd Independence Day.

FFCII president Benjamin Chua urged all Chinese-Filipinos to prominently display the Filipino flag until June 12.

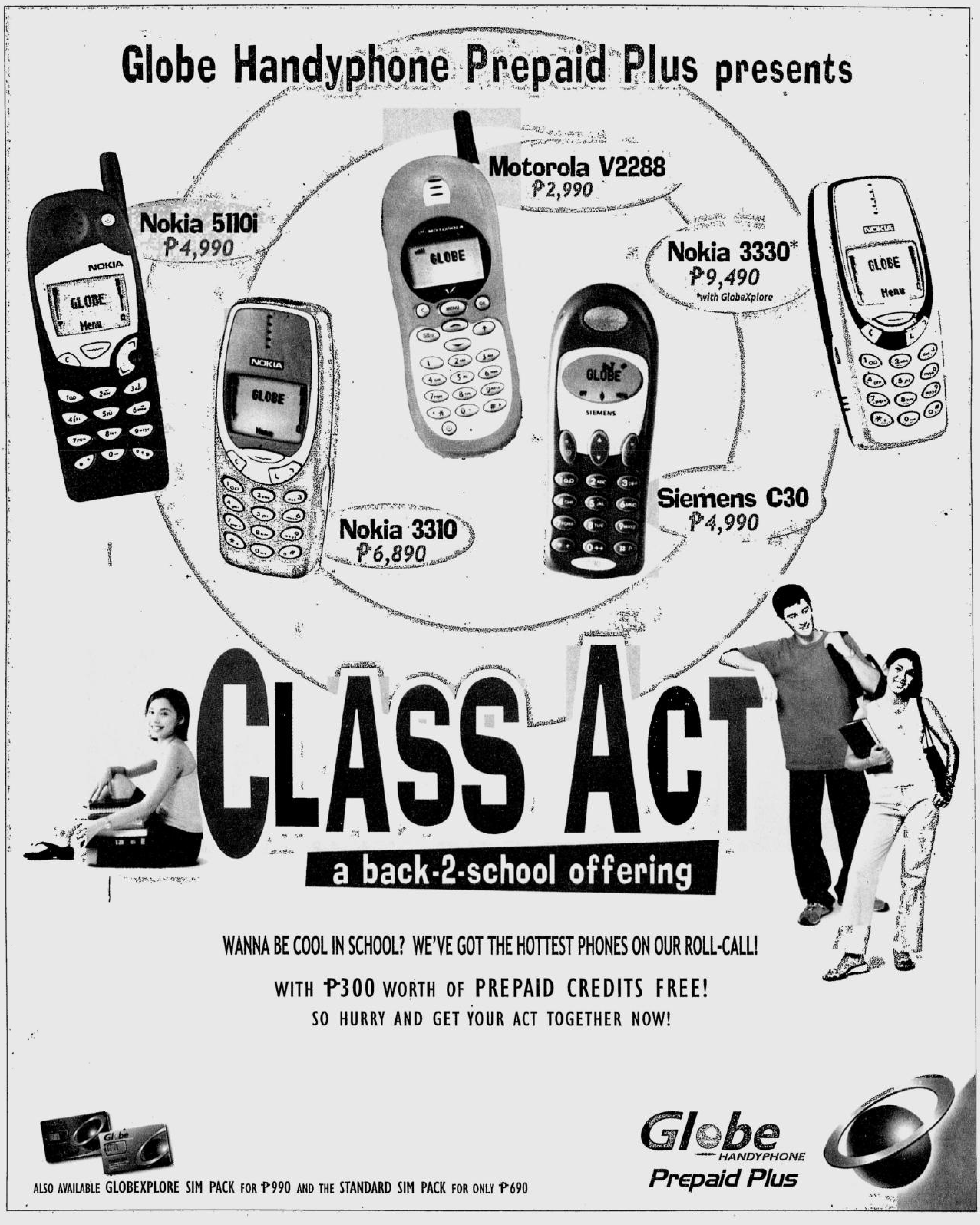
On June 6, FFCII is holding a public forum with National Artist for Literature F. Sionil Jose as speaker at the FFCII Auditorium on Muelle de Binondo, Manila.

On June 8, the FFCII will hold the Independence Day Dinner with President Macapagal-Arroyo as guest of honor. On June 10, the federation will hold medical and dental missions around Manila. On June 12, it will participate in the National Day Parada at Rizal Park.

A Memory . . .

(From page F3)

and Tagalog translations of poems by Diosdado Macapagal. Workshop panelists Becky Añonuevo, Lourd de Veyra, Ralph Galan and contributor Raymund Garlitos also read their works. Fellow Daryll Delgado of UP Tacloban, with Ophie Dimalanta on the piano, regaled the audience with a song number, before the fellows' turn to read came next to end the night. We then sped off, fellow and panelist alike, each not a little enthusiastically, off to whatever dazzling darkness the Baguio nightlife had kept secret from us the entire week, the perfect end to complete a communal memory of words.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'Buding' sags, 'The Accomplice' pulls it off (almost)

A SCENE from Repertory Philippines' "The Accomplice"

By Cora Llamas

DOÑA Buding, that catty, critical, but lovable gadfly of the glitzy and the glamorous in the 1970s, announced she was coming back with a vengeance.

REVIEWS

Most of us who grew up watching her biting social commentaries on TV in the good old "Penthouse Live" could hardly wait, especially because it was elections time. With all the mudslinging, political caterwauling and the huffing-and-puffing of many Senator wannabes, no critic could be as brutally honest, acrimoniously insightful and irreverently funny like Buding.

Unfortunately, the hundred-pound of wit and humor that campaigned for her own senatorial seat at the Music Museum was just a shadow of her old blustering self. Gantimpala Foundation's "Dona Buding for Senator" was a little disappointing.

It wasn't because she had "mellowed," to use director Tony Espejo's own words. It wasn't because she didn't shriek or acted as high-strung as before. Nanette Inventor might have softened the bitchiness a bit, but the no-holds-barred bite was still there. Wisdom and a bit of a personal tragedy could have dulled her claws a little, but the still feisty lady could still give as much as she could get.

Except that she was given too much and too little.

First of all, the lack of focus in Joey Reyes' script just threw the audience off. The one-woman gabfest was hyped as a political satire. The title alone was enough to whet audience's appetite. Given Edsa Dos and "Tres," and the tons of text messages floating around, material wouldn't have been a problem. The political atmosphere was just right for the viewer to see his frustrations, hopes, dreams and rants about his country's future mirrored in Buding, the ideal everyman's mouthpiece.

'BUDING'/ p.G4

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Public opinion.

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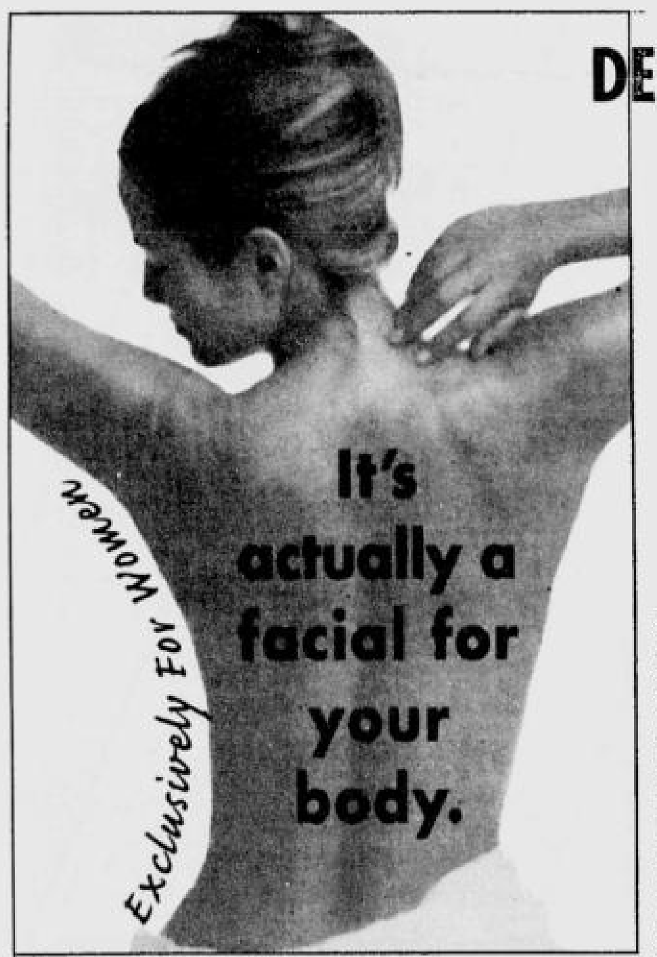
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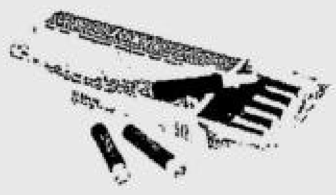

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Scoop editors	SCOOP <writer>
Music Top Ten	HITS

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Local	
Top National News	NEWS
Business (ABS-CBN)	BIZNEWS
Balita (GMA)	GMABALITA/BALITA
Frontpage	FRONTPAGE
Saksi	SAKSI
Provincial (Get news)	NEWSLOCAL <provincial code>
International	
World News	WORLDNEWS
Asia News	ASIANEWS
Electoral	
List categories	EBANTAY
News	EBANTAY <category>
Information Technology	
Computerworld	CWMAG
PC Magazine	PCMAG
The Web Magazine	WEBMAG

zed Tones & Graphics

Ringtones	
Get tone	TONE <tone name>
Send tone	TONE <tone name> <mobile number>
New	TONE NEW
Top 10	TONE TOPTEN
Categories	TONEMENU
Search	TONESEARCH <categories>
Picture Messages	
Get Picture	PIC <picture name>
Send Picture	PIC <picture name> <mobile number> <message>
New Pictures	PIC NEW
Top 10	PIC TOPTEN
Categories	PICMENU
Search	PICSEARCH
Logos	
Operator logo	
Get logo	LOGO <logo name>
Send logo	LOGO <logo name> <mobile number>
New logo	LOGO NEW
Top 10	LOGO TOPTEN
Categories	LOGOMENU
Search	LOGOSEARCH <category>
Group Icons	
Get icon	ICON <icon name>
Send icon	ICON <icon name> <mobile number>
New icon	ICON NEW
Top 10	ICON TOPTEN

zed Today

Word of the Day	WORD
Today in History	HISTORY
Quote of the Day	QUOTE

zed Poll

Get list of subjects	VOTE
Get question	VOTE <subject>
To answer	VOTE <subject> A/B/C/D
Results	VOTE RESULTS <category>
Help	VOTE HELP

zed Traffic & Weather

Traffic	
Areas available	TRAFLIST
Aurora Blvd.	TRAF AURORA
C-5	TRAF C5
Coastal Road	TRAF COASTAL
Commonwealth	TRAF COMMON
EDSA-Makati	TRAF EDSA MKT
EDSA-Ortigas	TRAF EDSA ORT
EDSA-Pasay Rd.	TRAF EDSA PSY
EDSA-QC	TRAF EDSA QC
NLEX	TRAF NLEX
Ortigas Ave.	TRAF ORT
Quezon Ave.	TRAF QUEZON
Ramon Magsaysay	TRAF RMAGSAYSAY
Roxas Blvd.	TRAF ROXAS
SLEX	TRAF SLEX
Taft Ave.	TRAF TAFT
Weather	
Local	
Forecast	WEA <city>
List Areas	WEA <category>
Weather Update	WEAUPDT or WEATHERUPDT
World	WORLDWEA <city>

zed Banking & Business

Foreign Exchange Rate	
US	USDR
Hongkong	RATE HKD
Singapore	RATE SGD
Japan	RATE JPY
Germany	RATE DEM
UK	RATE GBP
Others	RATE <country or currency>
Currency Converter	CURR <amount> <currency1> <currency2>
Stocks	
Quote	STO <stock code> or STOCKQ <stock code>
Codes	STOCK <company name>
Index Prices	
Phil. Stock Exchange	STOIND PSE
List Indices	STOIND LIST
Prices	STOIND <index code>
Foreign Index	
Index Prices	FINDX <index code>
List Indices	FINDX LIST
Mutual Funds	
Prices	FUND <company code>
Company	FUND LIST
Time Deposit	
Peso Rate	TDP <bank> <amount>
Search	TDP LIST
US Dollar Rate	TDD <bank> <amount>
Search	TDD LIST

zed at Home

Home and Lifestyle	
Recipe book	
Search	RECIPE SEARCH <search criteria up to 5 words>
View	RECIPE VIEW <recipe number>
Next 3 pages	RECIPE NEXT
More pages	RECIPE MORE
New Recipe	RECIPE NEW
Request for a new recipe	RECIPE REQUEST <search criteria up to 5 words>
Help	RECIPE HELP

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zed Sports

Sports	
Headlines	SPO/SPORTS
PBA	
News	PBANEWS
Scores	PBA
Schedule	PBASKED
Standings	PBARANK/PBATEAM
Statistics	PBASTAT
Player of the week	PBAPOW
MBA	
Scores	MBA
Schedule	MBASKED
NBA	
NBA round-up	NBA
Team News	NBANEWS <teamname>
Golf	
News	GOLF
PGA	GOLF PGA
LPGA	GOLF LPGA
Tennis	
News	TENNIS

zed Travel

City sites	
"Gallery, Theater, Library"	CITYSITE <establishment name> LCN <location>
Hotel	HOTEL <hotel name> LCN <location>
Flight Schedules	
Domestic	DOMFLT <carrier code> <origin> <destination>
International	INTFLT <carrier code> <origin> <destination>
Translation	
Foreign	TRANSLATE <word> <source language> <target language> *For language, key in first three letters
World time	TIME <city>

zed Search

Unit Measurement Converter	
Convert	CONV <value> <unit1> <unit2>
List Units	CONV LIST
Area Codes	AREA <city or province>
Country Codes	COUN <city or province>
ZIP Codes	ZIP <municipality/district/barangay>
Emergency Info	EMER <help center code or municipality>
Local Yellow Pages Search	EYP SEARCH <company> , <location> EYP SEARCH <company name>
Caltex Station	
Search	CALTEX <area>
Dictionary	WHATIS <word>
Jobs	JOBS <industry or position>
Package Tracking	
DHL	DHL Package DHL <10-digit airway bill number>
DHL Station list	
List	DHLLIST
Area	DHLLIST <area>
DHL Station Info	DHLLIST <area> <station>
Fedex	FEDEX <airway bill number>
Vehicle Locator	TRACK <Rover ID> <Password>

zed Fun and Games

Joke of the day	JOKE
Quiz Game	
Register	QUIZ JOIN <name or address>
Submit answer	QUIZ <question no.> <answer>
Record of Raffle entries	QUIZ ENTRY
Rules of quiz	QUIZ RULES
Quit	QUIZ QUIT
Trivia	
Question	TRIVIA Q
Answer	TRIVIA A
Jackenpoy	JP / JNP / JACKENPOY
Ask Zed	
Decider	DECIDER
Do I Date You	DOIDBU
What to do	WHAT2DO
Truth or Dare	TRUTH DARE
Card Games	
Blackjack	
Deal	BJ DEAL / BJK DEAL
Hit	BJ HIT / BJK HIT
Stand	BJ STAND / BJK STAND
Rules	BJ RULES / BJK RULES
Commands	BJ COMMANDS / BJK COMMANDS
Lucky 9	
Banker	L9 BANKER
Player	L9 PLAYER
Tie	L9 TIE
Rules	L9 RULES
Commands	L9 COMMANDS
Arcade Game	
Tamiya	
Register	TAMIYA REG <username>
Car	TAMIYA CAR
Choose car model	TAMIYA CAR <race car model>
Circuit	TAMIYA CIRCUIT
Parts	TAMIYA PARTS
Motor type	TAMIYA MOTOR <type of motor>
Rollers	TAMIYA ROLLERS <front rollers> <rear rollers>
Gears	TAMIYA GEARS <gear ratio>
Wheels	TAMIYA WHEELS <wheel type>
Tires	TAMIYA TIRES <tire type>
Chassis	TAMIYA CHASSIS <chassis type>
Set-up	TAMIYA SETUP
Race	TAMIYA RACE
Rules	TAMIYA RULES
Result	TAMIYA RESULT
Record	TAMIYA RECORD
Help	TAMIYA HELP
Sweepstakes Results	SWEEP
Lotto Results	LOTTO
Horse Racing	
List of races	RACE TIPS
Race details	RACE TIPS <race number>
Results	RACE RESULTS
Result search	RACE RESULTS <race number>

zed Psychic

Horoscope	<zodiac sign> "e.g. PISCES, ARIES, LIBRA,O"
Fortune Telling	
Categories	FORTUNE LIST
Your fortune	FORTUNE <category> <outcome> "Here, you throw a coin 6 times and take note of the outcome." "Head (H), Tail (T), to find out your fortune on a specific category" Outcome (e.g. HTHTHT)
Dreams	DREAM <dream subject>
Matchmaking	MATCH <P or B> <birthday1> <birthday2> (Personal or Business Compatibility) (Birthdays of person 1 and person 2) <MMDDYY>

zed Gimik

Movies	
Current Movies	MOVIES
Movie Location	MOV <movie title>
Theaters	THEATERS <theater name> LCN <location>
To get screening times	
SM Malls	
SM Megamall	MOVIESKED SMMEGAMALL <cinema number>
SM Southmall	MOVIESKED SMSOUTHMALL <cinema number>
SM North Edsa	MOVIESKED SMNORTHEDSA <cinema number>
SM Centerpoint	MOVIESKED SMCENTERPOINT <cinema number>
SM Guadalupe	MOVIESKED SMGUADALUPE <cinema number>
SM Fairview	MOVIESKED SMFAIRVIEW <cinema number>
SM Tutuban	MOVIESKED SMTUTUBAN <cinema number>
Glorietta	
Glorietta 1	MOVIESKED GLORIETTA1 <cinema number>
Glorietta 4	MOVIESKED GLORIETTA4 <cinema number>
Robinsons	
R. Galleria	MOVIESKED ROBINSONSGALLERIA <cinema number>
R. Place	MOVIESKED ROBINSONSERMITA <cinema number>
Others	
Town Center	MOVIESKED TOWNCENTER <cinema number>
Festival Mall	MOVIESKED FESTIVAL <cinema number>
Greenbelt	MOVIESKED GREENBELT <cinema number>
Sta. Lucia Mall	MOVIESKED STALUCIA <cinema number>
Live bands Schedules	
Menu	LIVEBAND MENU
Category	LIVEBAND <category>
Bandname	LIVEBAND <bandname>
Top 10	LIVEBAND <top10>
Gig	LIVEBAND GIG <area> e.g. ORTIGAS
San Miguel Beer Gig	
List areas	SMB AREAS
Get gig sked	SMB <area> <date>
Events	EVENT <artist or title>
Bars	BAR <bar name> LCN <location>
Clubs	CLUB <club name> LCN <location>
Restaurants	RESTO <resto name> LCN <location>

zed Mail

Zed Mobile Mail	
Inbox	
Check Mail	MAIL READ STATUS
New Mail	MAIL READ NEW
Unread Mail	MAIL READ <message number>
Delete Mail	MAIL DELETE <message number>,<message number>
Send Mail	
Compose	MAIL SEND <recipient email address or mobile number> EMAIL or MOBILE <subject> <message> e.g. MAIL SEND johnny.santos@abcompany.com EMAIL presentation set at 10 am
Reply	MAIL REPLY <number> <message>
Forward	MAIL FORWARD <RECIPIENT> <msg number> email or mobile <message>
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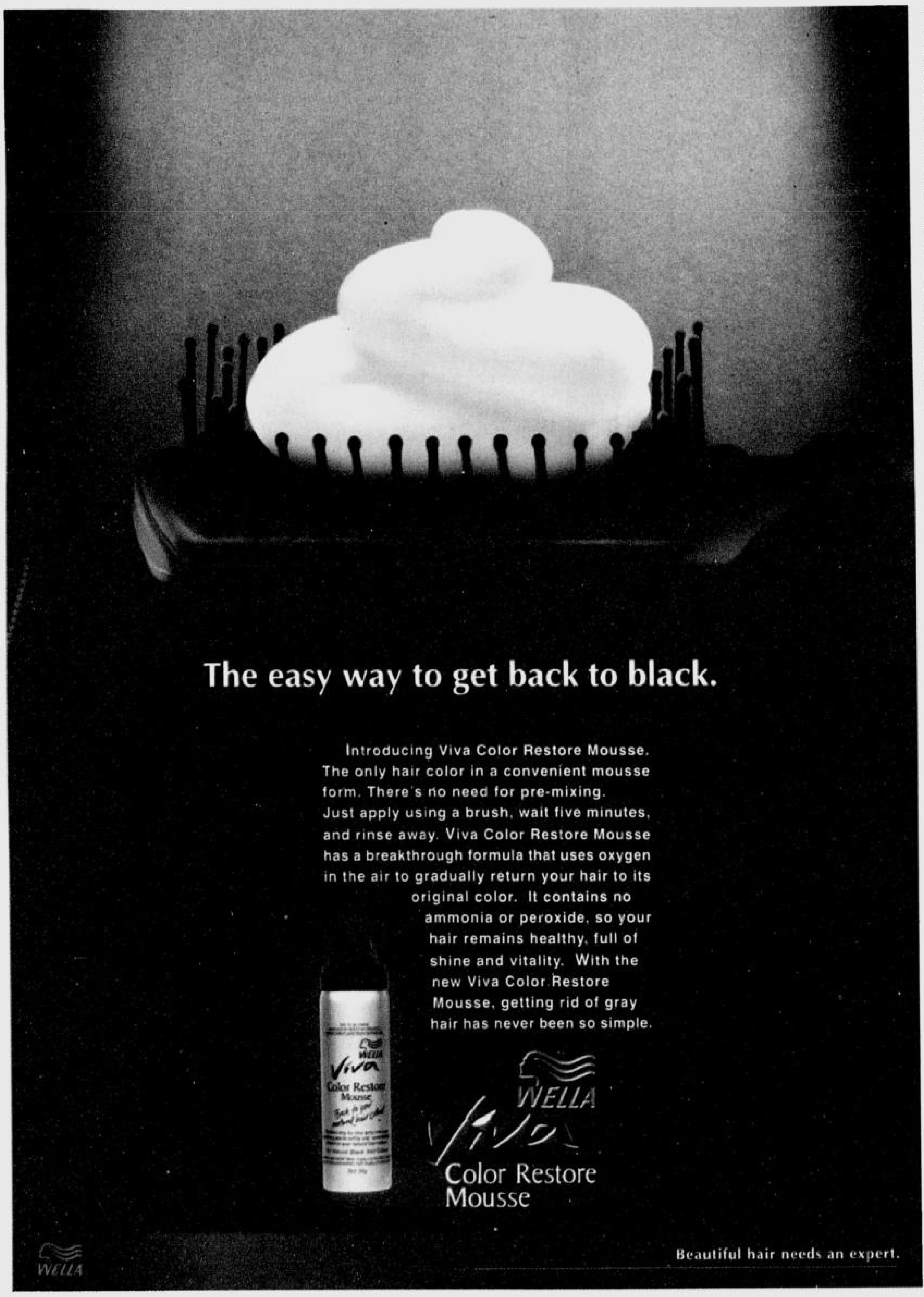

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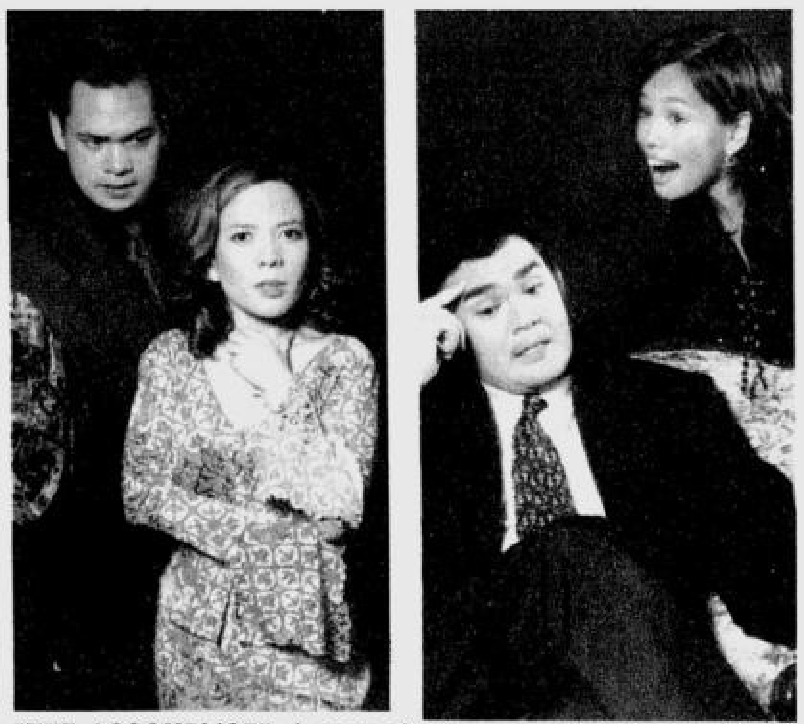

"THE ACCOMPLICE": A coup of sorts except that the identity of one of the actors is a give-away.

'Buding' sags, 'The Accomplice' pulls it off (almost)

(From page G1)

But except for a few gems of dead-on commentaries about political antics, the garbage and our *balikbayan* habits, the script basically took a roundabout way to make its point. The First Act dragged; it told of the descent of Buding's European-educated, classy only daughter into the sleaze of pornographic movies. One suspects that Reyes was probably trying to comment on the raging issue on bold films, censorship and freedom of expression triggered by the recent "Live Show" controversy, but Buding's lengthy wallowing in self-pity came off as forced. After a while, the audience started fidgeting in their seats.

The interludes, Espejo's mini musical-variety numbers inserted apparently to allow Inventor to make one of her admittedly spectacular costume changes, didn't help. Some of them, like the dancing boys bit, were poorly executed; as Buding herself would have said, "*parang panakip-butas.*" But even stopgaps would have been welcome had they been more polished; at the very least, we would have been entertained and prepped up for Buding's return.

Worse, the interludes were injected at the wrong moments, just when the energy and audience response were picking up. By the middle of Act Two, Buding finally had the audience eating out of the palm of her hand. The political jokes were flying fast and free. True, we had heard a few of them before—like Miriam Santiago's notorious "lying" lines—but at least we were laughing. Some of the newer dialogue put a clever spin on familiar situations. Like Enrile claiming to be "*bantay ng bayan, pero ngayon siya ang binabantayan ng bayan*!" Or Miriam (again) getting her comeuppance from one of the spectators she had thrown out of the hall during the impeachment trial.

Then, just when energy was high and the rollicking audience was begging for more, in came a messenger croaking about Buding's rising ratings—which led to a third-rate "Celebration" dance number. Not even Buding's money-clad gown and one-on-one with the audience could bring the momentum back to its former heights.

It still can, though, given enough work. Espejo has said that he plans to resurrect and tour the Buding shows. Buding still has a lot to say, and given the local social, political and cultural landscape, he, Reyes and Inventor, with their considerable talents, have a gold mine in their hands. Just tighten the script, take out those deflating dance numbers and please always be aware of your title.

'The Accomplice'

If you think you've caught every tricky sleight of hand in all mystery thrillers, catch "The Accomplice." Repertory Philippines and director Miguel Faustmann pulled off a coup with this one.

That old worn-out adage—"Things are not what they seem"—really lives up to its promise in Rupert Holmes' mystery thriller. All the clichés are immediately present at first glance. The gay lovers killing the straight spouse. The faithless wife plotting against a boring husband. The poison. The fake knife. The lurking ghost. But these elements are just red herrings meant to throw the viewer off-guard. Once the audience thinks it has figured out the familiar plot device and the direction of the mystery, the writer throws in something unexpected from left field and shatters all his theories. And the audience starts again from scratch.

It's almost impossible to do the review without giving away the punch line. And, unfortunately, that's where the play, performed by Repertory's leading actors, falters—in the end. (Warning: Please do not read further if you haven't seen it because I might accidentally give out some spoilers. But I do hope the director and the performers read this part; they'll know what I'm alluding to.)

The success of the script ultimately rises or falls on the identity of one of the actors. At this point, the third wall disappears; the audience figuratively leave their comfort seats to become participants in the thriller.

But the identity of the performer is a give-away. He is too well known, his face very familiar. To cast him in that critical role at the climax of the play just destroys the realism the play is trying to establish. The sense of suspense is suspended. Even the non-theatergoer needs only take a look at the program to realize that something is amiss.

In this kind of play, there are no half measures. The deception must be carried all the way through, or it fails.

Repertory Philippines' production of Rupert Holmes' "The Accomplice" will run until June 10 at the Carlos P. Romulo Theater, RCBC Plaza, Makati City

Raul Sunico plays Ravel and Rachmaninoff

RAUL Sunico, internationally acclaimed pianist, will be heard on June 10, 7 p.m., at the St. Cecilia's Hall, St. Scholastica's College, playing the music of Maurice Ravel and Sergei Rachmaninoff, two of his favorite composers. Sunico's affinity with these two giants of piano music is a natural one. His own remarkable technique is more than up to the requirements of their compositions, which are considered badges of mastery for pianists worldwide.

RAUL Sunico

The pianism of Rachmaninoff was based on his own extraordinarily large hands and his sublime playing capability, making his compositions quite taxing for lesser mortals. Ravel's music, on the other hand, is characterized by, as one pianist put it, "the most perfect and universal use of the resources of the modern piano."

Sunico's program will consist of Ravel's "Jeux d'eau (Water Games)," which is described as "liquid poetry"; "Alborada del Gracioso," one of the composer's many pieces cast in a Spanish mold; and "Gaspard de la Nuit," a three-part tour de force of instrumental ingenuity. The second part will consist of six selections from Rachmaninoff's Etudes tableaux, op. 39 and the fiendishly difficult Sonata No. 2, op. 36, which is considered one of his most electrifying works.

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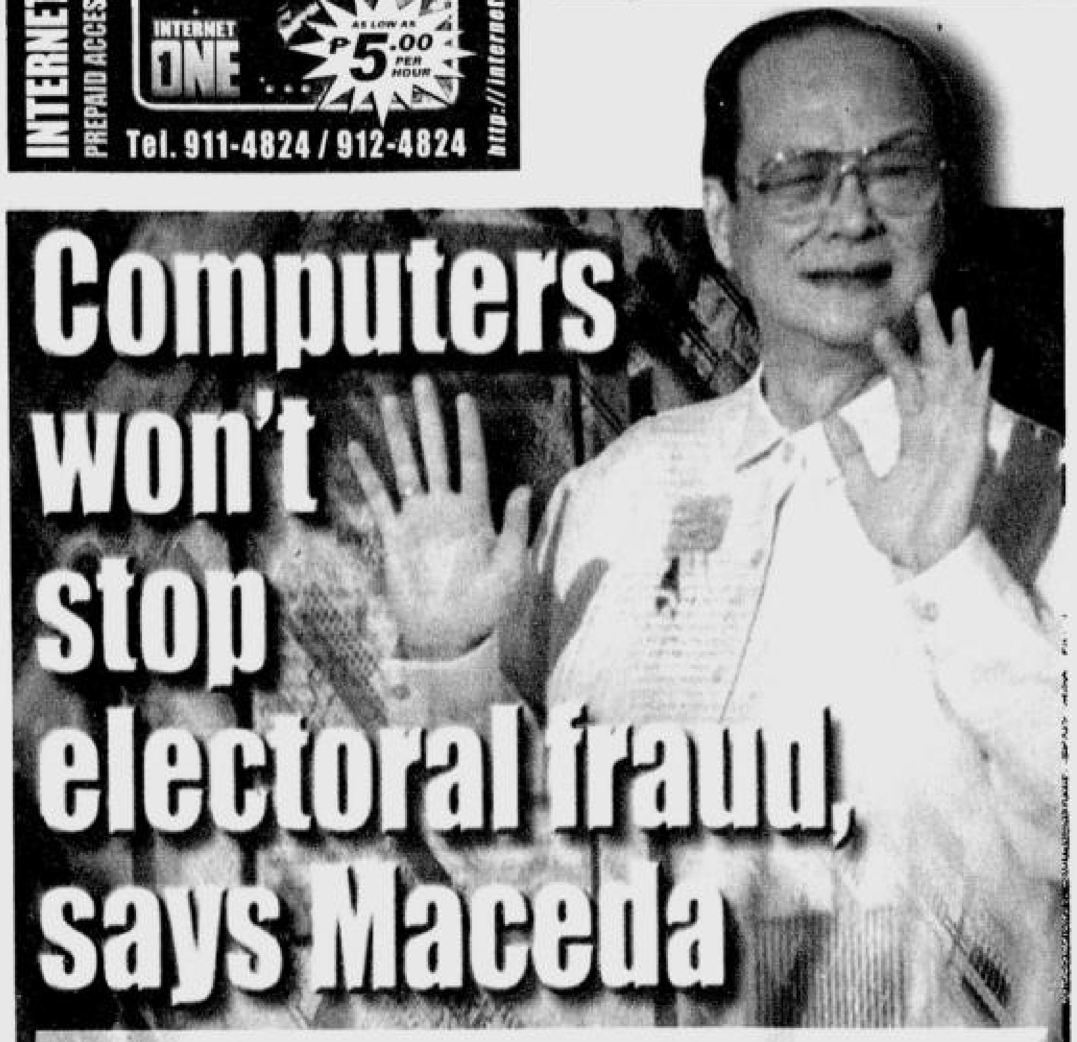


Computers won't stop electoral fraud, says Maceda

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

THE ELECTIONS have passed, and everything is over but the shouting and the proclamations. After being criticized no end for bungling the preparations for the polls, finger-pointing officials of the Commisssion on Elections are now being urged to computerize the next national elections in 2004. After all, this is mandated by law under Republic Act 8436 or the Election Automation Law which was passed in 1998.

Naysayers, however, argue that technology won't solve vote-padding and -shaving (*dagdag-bawas*) because of the human factor which is more difficult to control. Take Ernesto Maceda, for example. The former ambassador to the United States declared that "no amount of computerization would eliminate electoral fraud" because some election officials can be bought.

He made this statement amid allegations that widespread vote-padding had been committed in Zamboanga del Norte, Tawi-Tawi and Sultan Kudarat, where administration senatorial candidate Ralph Recto's votes had allegedly been padded.

Opposition lawyer Rufus Rodriguez, counsel for former first lady and Puwersa ng Masa (PnM) senatorial candidate Luisa Ejercito Estrada, claimed that the National Board of Canvassers is set to shave off a total of 93,000 votes from Recto, which were allegedly manufactured. Rodriguez said that Recto got 61,000 more votes in Tawi-Tawi, 15,000 in Sultan Kudarat and 17,000 in Zamboanga del Norte.

"Everybody agrees that we should computerjze the elections by 2004. I hope a miracle would happen because this would require something between P15 and P20 billion," Maceda said during a press conference hosted by the opposition party PnM.

Maceda argued that modernizing the elections in 2004 would hit a snag because members of Congress would think twice about appropriating that amount of money for the elections alone.

"This would become very problematic.

COMPUTERS/ p. H3

SAP pushes for electronic collaboration

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

"DESPITE the global preoccupation with business-to-business e-commerce, collaboration is the most important topic of serious contemplation for CEOs. And it's going to stay that way." So said Ian Black, managing director of SAP Philippines.

For 20 years, SAP, a company known for its enterprise resource planning (ERP) applications, has provided organizations software to run their various operations, such as human resource, manufacturing, sales and marketing, customer relations and support service.

Through those years, it has culled "blueprints" of how organizations behave, and what kind of software system would work best for each. But most of these software systems worked as "islands of information."

It was only in recent years that SAP has developed "bridges" between these "islands of information."

In a recent press briefing, Black acknowledged that SAP has been a dominant player in the widespread adoption of ERP applications in the 1990s. The company now boasts of 36,000 installations of its ERP software suite based on th R3 platform.

But their software suite lacked one component: the Internet.

Thus, mySAP.com was born.

SAP's mySAP.com is the company's attempt to bring its ERP applications to the Internet, considering that "companies were moving beyond ERP, (and) building on the competitive advantage it provides by leveraging on the Internet," Black said.

He added that SAP, as well as its customers, have begun to recognize the Internet's role in the conduct of electronic business, and "automating links" with suppliers and customers.

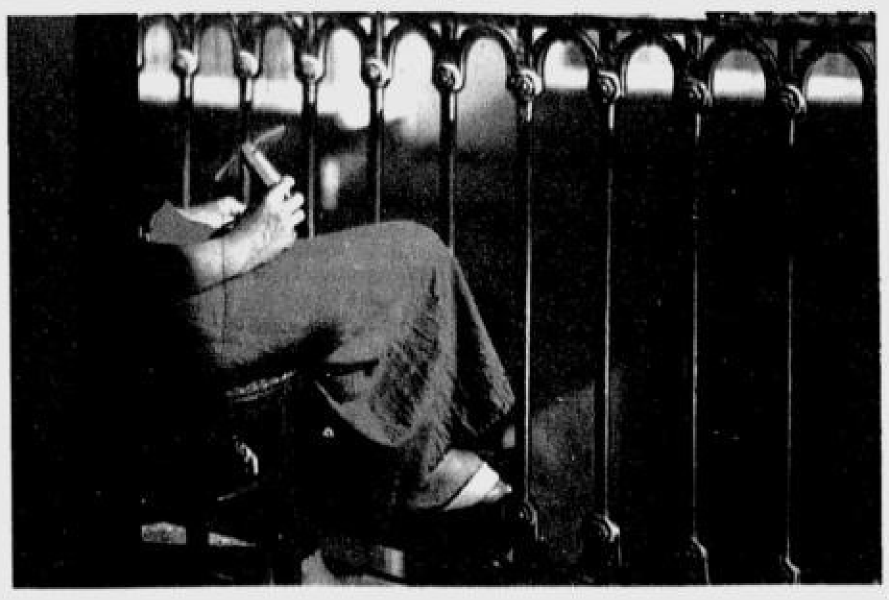
However, unlike its competitors such as Oracle and even IBM, SAP remains conservative, and opted not to join the hype on B2B and e-business. Instead, the company focused on so-called "collaborative business solutions."

"Collaboration offers a parallel set of benefits to the enterprise-computing model—the ability to create innovative processes that cross the corporate firewall transparently, seamlessly, and efficiently," Black continued.

Black pointed out that "private exchanges"—as opposed to public exchanges—offer distinct benefits to organizations:

- A public marketplace is like benchmarking. Everybody tries to be as good or incrementally better than competition. A private network provides the opportunity to achieve distinctive—and dramatic—competitive advantage.

SAP/ p.H3



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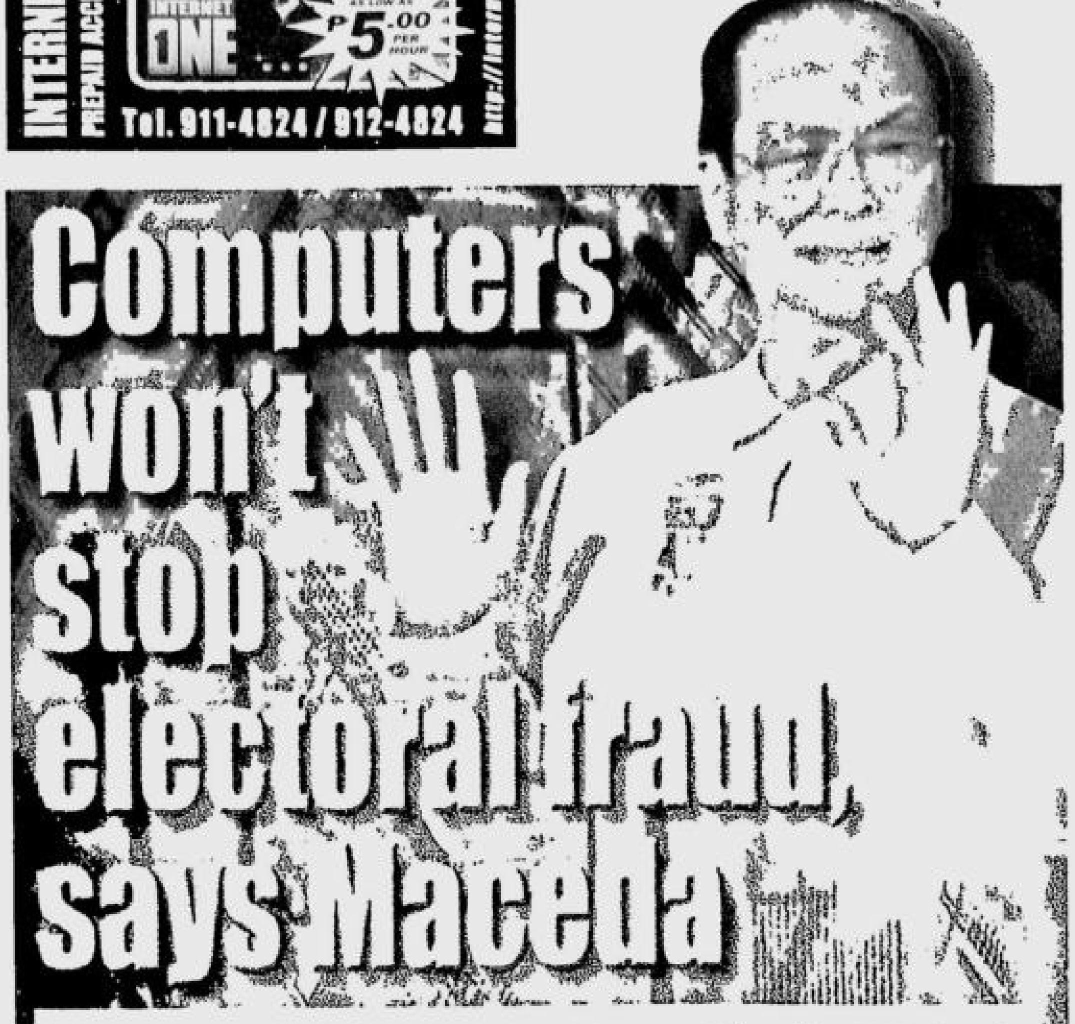

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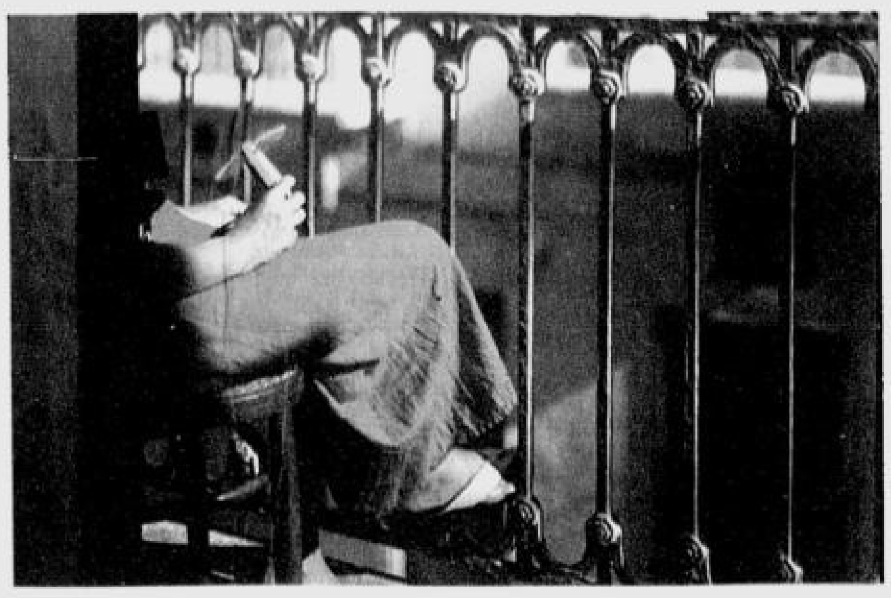

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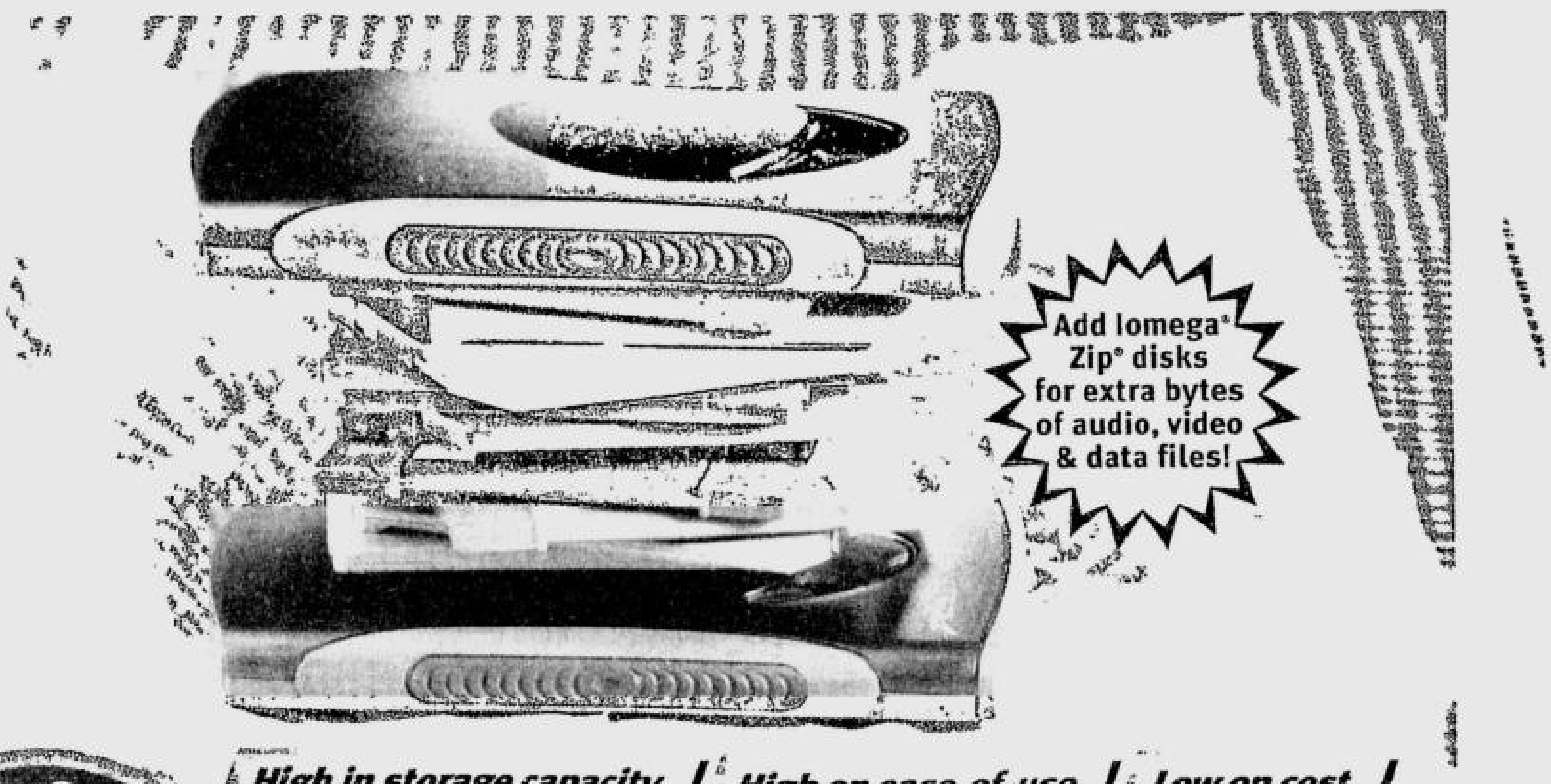

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Latest developments in Mac-friendly Epson

BY JAVIER VICENTE RUFINO

ONE of the bigger hurdles Macintosh users have to face is that most computer peripherals are made for the PC market. Few, if any, are made for the Mac.

For example, until recently, most printers offered only parallel port connections which Macs can't use. The only printers that were compatible with the Mac were Apple's own printers and some high-end laser printers that used Postscript, a desktop publishing printing language. If you wanted to use a cheaper PC printer you had to use a costly Powerprint adapter.

For this reason, Epson inkjet printers have always had a special place in the heart of Mac users because they have always been Mac-friendly (unlike HP printers where only selected models were Mac-compatible).

As a result and also because of their superior print quality, Epson stylus inkjets are stand-bys in the Mac pre-press and imaging businesses where they serve as quick, cost-effective color proofing solutions.

But as anyone who's ever tweaked a photograph on a computer before can tell you, color fidelity between your photo and the printed output can be difficult to achieve. Reds become shades of orange. Greens and blues merged into a muddy aqua, and flesh tones become either salmon pink or chalk white (ask any magazine art director).

The reason for this is the inherent differences between the way cameras, scanners, monitors and printers see color. No single device can capture the full spectrum of colors. Each device captures only a specific range and unfortunately the ranges don't always match so colors get dropped as images are moved from one device to another.

On the high-end, a whole range of solutions exist to ensure color fidelity. Some of these, such as sensors to measure a monitor's color temperature and especially designed clothing, appear decidedly exotic to the layman. On the low-end though, no comparative color management solution exists, especially for home users who only want to print pictures that look like the ones they took.

It was in providing a solution for the consumer market that Epson recently launched a software/firmware solution for its line of inkjet printers in conjunction with several digital camera manufacturers, among them Nikon, Olympus, Minolta and Sony.

Called the Print Management System, the solution resides in additional firmware on Epson's new line of inkjet printers and a companion program called Photoquicker on the PC or Macintosh. The system works by inserting additional information into the JPEG image files created by supported digital cameras. The additional information allows the digital camera manufacturer to send signals to the printer directly instead of having to rely on the computer's printer driver. This in turn lets the camera maker make fuller use of the higher color range available to the printers resulting in higher quality photo prints. All the user has to do, says Epson, is select the photo in Photquicker and click print.

The Print Management System can also let users bypass the computer directly. The new Epson inkjet printer, the Stylus Photo 890, can accept many of the media used by digital cameras to store images such as Smart Media or Compact Flash. The printer can print from the media directly. An optional LCD monitor lets users preview the image before printing.

Taking the computer out of the equation and making the photo printing process a simple operation does mean though that the special effects you can introduce into your image are limited to what is offered in Photoquicker and the hardware of the Epson printer. Using any other image editor destroys the special information. Epson says it is working on better integra-

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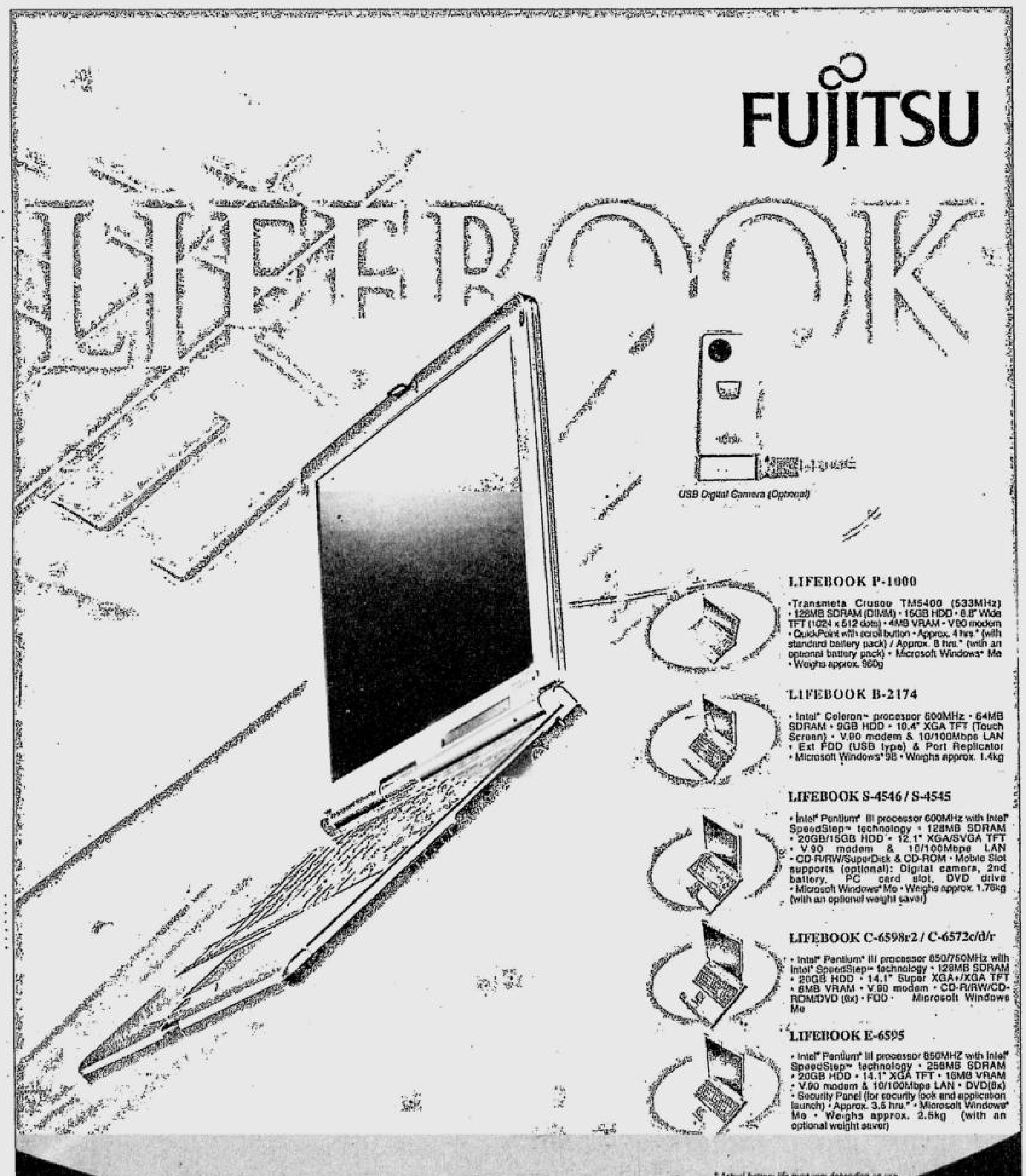

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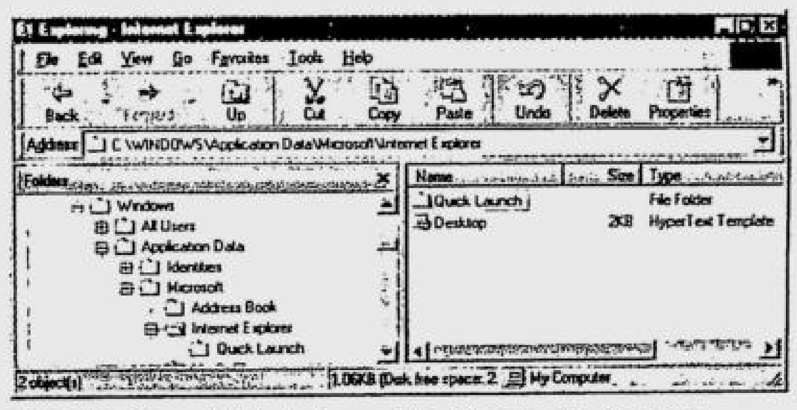

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THE QUICK launch folder is in one of the Windows subdirectories.

Windows 98 Quick Launch toolbar

BY JERRY LIAO

POWERTIPS

THERE'S a toolbar located next to the "Start" button of Windows called Quick Launch. Here, you can actually add your favorite applications so that you can launch them with a click of the mouse. Here's how you do it:

(1) Open Windows Explorer

(2) Go to "Windows," then "Application Data," then to the folder callled "Microsoft," and then to the "Internet Explorer" folder. Here, you will find "Quick Launch."

(3) Simply add shortcuts to your favorite programs to this folder, and they will be displayed on the toolbar.

(4) Delete shortcuts or programs from this folder to remove it from the toolbar.

(5) To rearrange the order of the icons, click the icon on the toolbar and drag them to your desired location.

For more tips, visit our website at www.brainshare.com.ph. We would like to invite our readers to join the Powertips Group. Send your name, address, age, profession and company name to infochat@mozcom.com and receive free tips via e-mail. For questions, comments and suggestions, send e-mail to the same address.

Namfrel to Comelec: Automate ARMM polls

BY ERWIN LEMUEL G. OLIVA

COMMISSION on Elections Chair Alfredo Benipayo has approved "in principle" a recent poll watchdog's proposal to computerize the counting of votes at the forthcoming elections of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Jose Concepcion, chair of the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel), said Benipayo had "committed" to the Namfrel proposal to use 68 counting machines to limit counting irregularities which usually occur in a manual tabulation.

Concepcion said the computerized counting machines had already been used in the 1995 and 1998 ARMM elections.

Late last year, Namfrel had urged the Comelec to use counting machines being offered for lease by the city of Toronto, Canada. The city was offering 1,800 counting machines used in mayoral elections in the city.

The supplier of the counting machines was ES & S, an American firm. This was also the same supplier of the 68 counting machines used in the 1995 and 1998 ARMM elections.

Unfortunately, Toronto's offer did not materialize after its mayor failed to respond to a query made by former Comelec Chair Harriet Demetriou.

Namfrel last week renewed its interest in pushing for the use of counting machines in the forthcoming ARMM elections because of the alleged electoral fraud it has discovered in various provinces including Northern Samar.

Photokina bats for revival of VRIS project

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

MONTHS after being hit by the controversy involving the mistress of former President Joseph Estrada, Photokina Marketing Corp. broke its silence on Thursday as it pushed for the implementation of the infamous voter's registration identification system (VRIS) project under the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

The VRIS was shelved early this year after the Comelec en banc found that it did not have enough money and time to proceed with the proposed P6.5-billion project.

The VRIS was envisioned to clean the dirty database of voters in the Philippines. If it pushes through, every Filipino voter would be issued a permanent identification card containing their dossier, photo and fingerprint. This would serve as their permanent voter's ID.

The consortium, which includes Photokina, IBM, Sagem, Polaroid, Unisys and Headstrong (formerly James Martin+Co) bagged the project last year, after outbidding two other consortiums of computer companies and system integrators.

The project, however, hit a snag when government thumbed down the five-year project.

The Department of Budget and Management last year indicated that the government could not appropriate funds for local projects that would last for more than a year. Funds would only be limited to foreign-assisted projects.

At the time, Comelec Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco and other commissioners already signed the contract between Photokina and the Comelec, but was blocked by former Comelec Chair Harriet Demetriou.

At the same time, reports tagged Guia Gomez, the mother of JV Ejercito, as the supposed owner of Photokina.

Gomez denied these allegations.

The Senate is set to investigate the Comelec's failure to implement the computerization project, with special focus on the controversial VRIS.

Amid the hitches, the Photokina consortium is bent on pushing for the implementation of the project, saying there is little time to waste.

Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo this month indicated plans to take away the modernization committee from Tancangco, who herself is embroiled in controversy over the delay of the whole Comelec modernization project.

On several occasions, Benipayo said that the Comelec plans to focus modernization plans on the automation of counting and consolidation of votes nationwide.

Photokina, however, is confident that the consortium would begin negotiations with the poll body for reactivation of the project.

"Unless there's a failure of bidding, the Comelec cannot grant the project to any other group," remarked George Balagtas, spokesperson for Photokina, during a recent press briefing.

"We would wait for their invitation to renegotiate the contract. Right now, there's no contract, therefore there's nothing to reject," he said.

Balagtas also had this to say on the company's alleged link with Gomez: "We categorically deny that she's the owner (of Photokina) or even owns shares in the company. All those reports are unfair."

Balagtas, however, admitted that Photokina was "familiar" with the Estradas since the company has been in the film industry business distributing film stock.

"It's strictly a client-supplier relationship. There is no official business relationship (between Photokina and Gomez)," Balagtas said.

The Photokina spokesperson also invited anyone to "look into the company records" to determine the veracity of their claims.

Palm to make new job cuts

SANTA CLARA, California—Digital organizer maker Palm Inc. said this week it would make new job cuts in its next fiscal quarter, even though it was gaining market share with its newest product.

The company also said it hired Todd Bradley, former executive vice president of global operations at computer maker Gateway Inc., as chief operating officer of the company's main division, which is responsible for sales of handheld digital assistants.

"Palm will make additional reductions in its work force in the first fiscal quarter of 2002 to bring its cost structure closer in line with business conditions. Last month, Palm reduced its work force by a total of about 300 regular and contract workers," the company said in a statement.

The company said it would give more details on the job cuts when it announced fiscal fourth-quarter results the week of June 25. *Reuters*

SAP pushes . . .

(From page H1)

- A public marketplace is a "one-size-fits-all" approach to doing business over the Internet. A private exchange is tailor-fit for a specific organization.
- Private marketplaces give organizations control.
- Return on investments is measurable in private exchanges.

It is for the abovementioned reasons that SAP is now focusing on providing the tools and the blueprint for creating private exchanges, according to Black.

He said that SAP is now working with Commerce One in delivering solutions for this emerging market.

"In my view, the international and local economies are poised to pull out of their recent doldrums, and there is tremendous potential for Philippine companies that are prepared to do business in the competitive global economy," Black said.

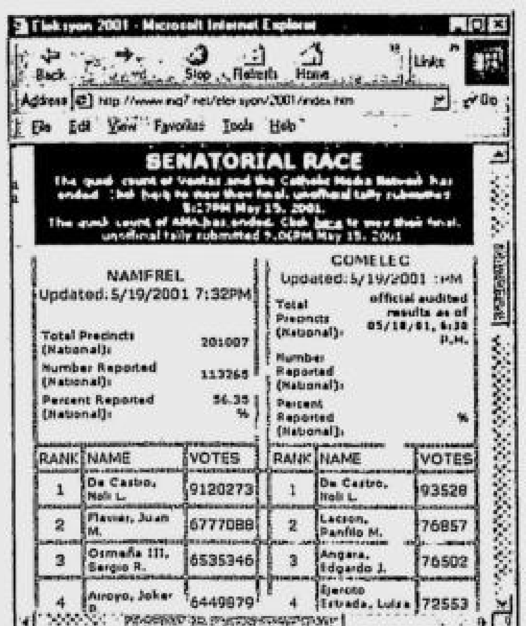
According to research firm International Data Corp., SAP now controls over 52 percent of ERP implementations in the Philippines, compared to the nearest competitor with a 14-percent marketshare.

Latest . . .

(From page H2)

tion with third party editors but for now this is a real limitation if you are a control freak about your images.

If you aren't though, and prefer trouble-free printing of family reunion pictures, the Epson solution seems ideal. You will have to get new equipment though (an upgrade will be released for more recent Epson models) and you might also want to wait to see if the standard—which Epson wants to make industry-wide—catches on. Setting new standards is a chancy business in IT, as much a matter of perception and circumstances as it is about a technology's inherent merits.



SENATORIAL RACE

NAMFREL Updated: 5/19/2001 7:32PM		COMELEC Updated: 5/19/2001	
Total Precincts (National):	201007	Total Precincts (National):	official audited results as of 05/18/01, 6:38 P.M.
Number Reported (National):	113265	Number Reported (National):	
Percent Reported (National):	56.35 %	Percent Reported (National):	%

RANK	NAME	VOTES	RANK	NAME	VOTES
1	De Castro, Noli L.	9120273	1	De Castro, Noli L.	93528
2	Flavier, Juan M.	6777088	2	Lacson, Panfilo M.	76857
3	Osmeña III, Sergio R.	6535346	3	Angara, Edgardo J.	76502
4	Arroyo, Joker P.	6449879	4	Ejercito Estrada, Luisa	72553

WHILE Maceda talks about vote-padding in computerized polls, go online and get the latest election tally at www.inq7.net.

Computers . . .

(From page H1)

As you can see in this election, or in any election, a non-computerized and defective election system favors the administration. That is why in the past, no administration went out of its way to release funds to computerize because it (non-computerization) is a natural advantage to the administration," Maceda said.

"President Macapagal-Arroyo promised that computerization would be a top priority. If this has any chance of being implemented, it must be done during this first year of the three years before 2004. I think they have to appropriate at least P12 billion (for this project). If that is not appropriated within the first year, then forget it. It will not happen," Maceda added.

In other words, if computers can be bought, then so, too, can the men operating them. In the same vein, if computers can be programmed to tally votes, humans can be programmed to rig such counting machines. This, more than the budget appropriation, is a bigger problem toward computerizing the 2004 elections.

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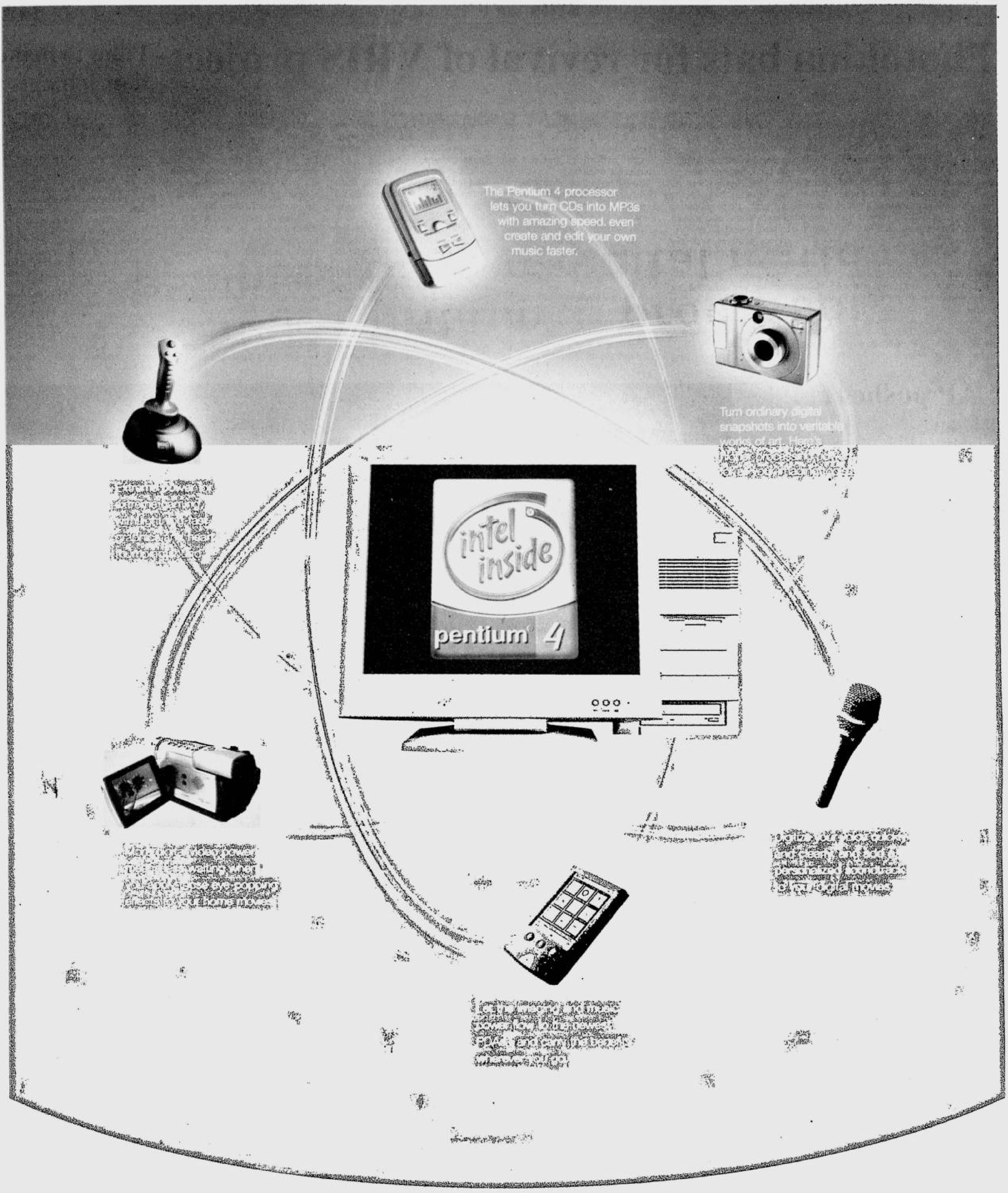
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